

JOHN DIXON.



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HISTORY

OF

LEE COUNTY,

TOGETHER WITH

BIOGRAPHICAL MATTER, STATISTICS, ETC.

GATHERED FROM INTERVIEWS WITH OLD SETTLERS, COUNTY,  
TOWNSHIP AND OTHER RECORDS, AND EXTRACTS  
FROM FILES OF PAPERS, PAMPHLETS, AND  
SUCH OTHER SOURCES AS HAVE  
BEEN AVAILABLE.



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## PREFACE.

IN presenting the History of Lee County to the public the editors and publishers have had in view the preservation of certain valuable historical facts and information which without concentrated effort would not have been obtained, but with the passing away of the old pioneers, the failure of memory, and the loss of public records and private diaries, would soon have been lost. This locality being comparatively new, we flatter ourselves that, with the zeal and industry displayed by our general and local historians, we have succeeded in rescuing from the fading years almost every scrap of history worthy of preservation. Doubtless the work is, in some respects, imperfect;—we do not present it as a model literary effort, but in that which goes to make up a valuable book of reference for the present reader and future historian, we assure our patrons that neither money nor time has been spared in the accomplishment of the work. Perhaps some errors will be found. With treacherous memories, personal, political and sectarian prejudices and preferences to contend against, it would be almost a miracle if no mistakes were made. We hope that even these defects, which may be found to exist, may be made available in so far as they may provoke discussion and call attention to corrections and additions necessary to perfect history.

In the writing of the general county history Dr. Cochran has had the advice and constant counsel of many of the early settlers of the county, to whom the manuscript was submitted and by them approved; and while there may be some mistakes, it is thought that it would hardly be possible, after so many years with nothing to depend upon for many of the facts but the memories of the early settlers, that it is as nearly correct as it could possibly be made. Certain it is that at no time in the future could such a work be undertaken with circumstances so favorable for the production of a reliable record of the early times of Lee county.

The township histories, by E. S. Ricker, Prof. J. H. Atwood, C. F. Atwood, and others, will be found full of valuable recollections, which but for their patient research must soon have been lost forever, but which are now happily preserved for all ages to come. These gentlemen have placed upon Lee county a mark which will not be obliterated, but which will grow brighter and broader as the years go by.

The biographical department contains the names and private sketches of nearly every person of importance in the county. A few persons, whose sketches we should be pleased to have presented, for various reasons refused or delayed furnishing us with the desired information, and in this matter only we feel that our work is incomplete. However, in most of such cases we have obtained, in regard to the most important persons, some items, and have woven them into the county or township sketches, so that, as we believe, we cannot be accused of either partiality or prejudice.

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# HISTORY OF LEE COUNTY.

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## DISCOVERY AND EARLY HISTORY.

IN sketching the history of Lee county we must take the reader back to the early days of the northern part of the State of Illinois, embraced in the great territory lying northwest of the Ohio river. This territory, embracing northern Illinois, was discovered by Jacques Marquette, and Louis Joliet in 1673. Marquette was a French Jesuit missionary, and Joliet was a Quebec fur-trader. These men had penetrated the wilderness of Canada to the upper lakes, each engaged in his appropriate occupation. The French missionary, while at La Pointe, received information through the Illinois tribes who had been driven by the Iroquois from their hunting grounds on the shores of Lake Michigan to a region thirty days' journey to the west, that there existed a "great river" flowing through grassy plains on which grazed countless herds of buffaloes. The same information had been received by Dablon and Allouez, two missionaries, who were exploring Wisconsin from the Miamis and Maskoutens. This information resulted in the appointment, by the governor of Canada, of Joliet to explore the "Great River." Pierre Marquette was chosen to accompany him, "for in those days religion and commerce went hand in hand." Joliet fitted out the expedition, which consisted of "two canoes and five voyageurs, and a supply of corn and smoked meat; and May 27, 1673, the little band left St. Ignace for their perilous voyage through an unknown country, preoccupied by wild beasts, reptiles, and hostile savages." Coasting to the head of Green Bay, they "ascended the Fox river; crossed Lake Winnebago, and followed up the quiet and tortuous stream beyond the portage;" launched their canoes in the waters of the Wisconsin, and without their Indian guides they swept down this stream until they caught sight of the hills which bound the valley of the "Great River," and at nightfall landed, to eat their evening repast on the banks of the broad Mississippi, for which they launched their canoes one month before. They floated

down the mighty current to the Arkansas, where they were compelled to return because of the hostility of the Indians, who on the lower Mississippi were furnished with rifles by the Spaniards.

Having determined to return to the north, on July 17, one month from the discovery of the Mississippi, they launched their canoes and started on the returning voyage: and reaching the mouth of the Illinois river they ascended this stream until they came to a small village, then known as Kaskaskia, about seven miles below Ottawa. Here they procured guides, who conducted them up the stream to the head of the Des Plaines, when by an easy portage they entered the Chicago river, and thus reached Lake Illinois (now Lake Michigan), and were the first white men to visit what is the present site of the city of Chicago, more than two hundred years ago. From that point they passed up the western coast of Lake Michigan northward, reaching Green Bay late in the month of September, after an absence of four months, and having traveled more than twenty-five hundred miles. Here Joliet separated from his traveling companion, Pierre Marquette, and hastened to Quebec to announce to the governor the results of the expedition: but almost in sight of Montreal, in the rapids of La Chine, his canoe upset, a portion of his crew were drowned, and he himself narrowly escaped, with the loss of all his papers."

Joliet never returned to this territory; but engaged in the fur trade with the Indians of Hudson's Bay. After receiving from his government, "in consideration of his services, a grant of the islands of Mignan and Anticosti, he engaged in the fisheries," and subsequently explored the coasts of Labrador. "He was made royal pilot for the St. Lawrence, and also hydrographer at Quebec. He died poor, about 1699 or 1700, and was buried on one of the islands of Mignan."

Marquette, however, through love of humanity and devotion to the cross and the work of the Master, returned to the Illinois valley late in the following autumn to preach to the benighted people of that region. Leaving Green Bay in October of 1674, he with two voyageurs started for the Chicago river, up which stream they ascended to a point about six miles above the present locality of the city of Chicago. Here he built a hut to shelter him from the storms of winter, in which he remained until the following spring, when he performed his last acts of devotion to his favorite cause—the mission of the cross to the children of the forest—and with which were associated the romantic sadness and sweet peace of the closing scenes of the life of this noble man. Through the exposures of the expedition to the Mississippi and Illinois the previous summer, <sup>1</sup>



contracted a disease which proved to be fatal. Having suffered much from hemorrhage he was illy prepared for his return to the mission field. His frail constitution suffered much from the exposures of the voyage to Chicago, being late in autumn. The cold October winds swept the lake and tossed them on a rough sea and drenched them with cold rains. Their rude tents and camp-fires were insufficient to give protection in the cold, damp October nights. The hemorrhage from which he had previously suffered, returned and the good man seemed conscious that he was making his last voyage in time, and that the day was not far distant when he would cross that river from beyond which there is no return. In their lonely hut he and his two voyageurs spent the winter, surrounded by the wild beasts that roamed over the prairies and wandered through the forests from the waters of the Ohio on the south to the snowbound regions of the north; and from their hut could be seen in their native wilderness the buffalo, the deer, the bear, and the wild turkey. The historian says, "with the return of spring his disease relented, when he descended the river to the Indian village below Ottawa, where he gathered the people in a grand council, and preached to them concerning heaven and hell, and the Virgin, whose protection he had specially invoked. A few days after Easter he returned to Lake Michigan, when he embarked for Mackinac, passing around the head of the lake beneath the great sand-dunes which line the shore, and thence along the eastern margin to where a small stream discharges itself into the great reservoir south of the promontory, known as the 'sleeping bear.' Marquette had for some time lain prostrate in the bottom of the canoe. The warm breath of spring revived him not, and the expanding buds of the forest did not arrest his dimmed gaze. Here he requested them to land. Tenderly they bore him to the bank, and built for his shelter a bark hut. He was aware that his hour had come. Calmly he gave directions as to the mode of his burial, craved the forgiveness of his companions if in ought he had offended them, administered to them the sacrament, and thanked God that he was permitted to die in the wilderness." The darkness of the night settled over the scene, and ere the dawn of the morning light the noble spirit of Pierre Marquette had crossed the river that flows between this and the brighter worlds beyond. Thus closed the life of him who accompanied the first exploring expedition which discovered the territory of this commonwealth, and he was the first christian missionary to raise the standard of the cross to natives of the northwest. He died on May 18, 1675, and was buried on the bank of the stream that bears his name. His remains were subsequently re-

moved to St. Ignace and deposited beneath the floor of the chapel in which he had so often administered the sacred rites of his church.

The next white man to tread the verdant soil of this territory was a Frenchman residing at Fort Frontenac (now Kingston), by the name of Rene-Robert Cavelier Sieur De La Salle, commonly known as La Salle. He was born at Rouen, France, in 1643, of an "old and affluent family." He left his native country and arrived in Canada in 1666. He learned through the Seneca Iroquois that there was a river called the Ohio which flowed to the sea at a distance of many months' journey. Having resolved to explore this stream, he sold his possessions in order to procure the necessary funds to carry out his plans. Connecting his enterprise with other parties, they left La Chine with a party of seven canoes and twenty-four men, attended by two canoes filled with Senecas, who acted as guides to the party; in all, a fleet of nine canoes, which ascended the St. Lawrence to Lake Ontario, and along the southern shore of that water to the mouth of the Genesee; then passed Niagara under the sound of the great cataract to the village, where, in September, 1669, he separated from the seminary party, who started with him, and alone plunged into the unknown wilderness of the west. Passing Onondaga he reached an affluent of Ohio twenty or twenty-five miles from Lake Erie, and followed down this stream to its junction with the Ohio, which he descended to the falls of Louisville, where his voyageurs deserted him, which compelled him to abandon his explorations and return to Canada. The following year, 1670, he passed the head of Lake Michigan and penetrated to the waters of the Illinois, by which he reached the Mississippi, which he descended to some miles below the mouth of the Ohio. But little is known of the route over which he returned to Canada. This expedition, however, prepared him for his future enterprise in the locality of Illinois, which has perpetuated his name in history for succeeding generations.

In contemplation of a return to the Illinois country, La Salle designed the building of a vessel for a voyage around the lakes; and in the spring of 1680 the "Griffin" was launched at the mouth of Cayuga Creek; and on the 7th of August her sails were spread and she started on her voyage, being the first vessel that ever plowed the waters of the northern lakes. On reaching the islands at the entrance of Green Bay he disembarked all his stores and sent the "Griffin" back laden with furs with orders to return to him; but he never saw her again, and it still remains a mystery as to what her fate was, or what became of her crew. La Salle, however, was not to be deterred from his purpose by even the loss of his favorite

vessel, but having swept down the western shore of Lake Michigan, passed the mouth of the Chicago, and rounded the head of the lake to the mouth of the St. Joseph, which he called the Miamis, and landed on the 1st of November. On the 3d of December he left the waters of Michigan, and with fourteen men and four canoes he ascended the St. Joseph to the present site of South Bend, Indiana, where he crossed a portage of five miles to the waters of the Thealike, or Haukiki, now Kankakee, conveying their canoes and cargo, by which they descended the Kankakee, down through the swamps, and meandered out into the great prairies to the valley of the Illinois, and reached Peoria Lake on the 30th of January, 1680. He constructed a fort on the southern bank of the stream below the lake, and named it Creve-cœur. "This was the first civilized occupation of Illinois." After commencing the building of a vessel for the waters of the Mississippi valley, La Salle returned for an outfit to Canada, a journey of fifty-five days, and reached Fort Frontenac May 6, 1680. Soon after his departure from the new settlement on the Illinois, which he left in charge of Lieut. Tonty, it was destroyed by a band of Iroquois. He returned in the autumn of the same season, and finding all laid waste he returned to St. Joseph, where he spent the winter; and in the following spring returned to Canada, leaving the St. Joseph in May, 1681, passing Mackinac, where he rejoined Tonty, and proceeded to Fort Frontenac, where he accumulated the necessary resources, and late in the season returned to the Illinois with twenty-three Frenchmen, eighteen Mohegan warriors and their ten women and three children. The expedition consisted of fifty-four persons, and their journey, from Fort Miamis on the lake to Fort Creve-cœur on the Illinois, was beset with hardships and perils. "It was in the dead of winter when they set out. La Salle placed the canoes on sledges, and thus they were conveyed around the head of the lake to Chicago, thence across the portage to the Des Plaines and even to Peoria Lake, where open water was reached." Here they launched their canoes, and passing the lake they swept down the Illinois to the Mississippi, and on the 6th of April reached the Gulf of Mexico, where they erected, on a "dry spot," near the mouth of the Mississippi, a column to France and decorated it with the French arms. The last of the summer they returned to Illinois, and stopping at a point on that stream known as the "Starved Rock," La Salle began at once to fortify that bluff, which has become famous in the history of Illinois. This fort he named St. Louis, which crowned the summit of a natural fortress. "At the base of the cliff he gathered about him the Indian inhabitants who were sheltered in log cabins and bark



lodges. The resident aboriginal inhabitants in the region amounted to about 4,000 warriors or 20,000 souls." We must here turn aside from this great man, and refer the reader to "The Discovery of the Great West," by Francis Parkman, for the study of his character and wonderful career in the wilds of America.

From the building of Fort St. Louis the French continued to occupy Illinois. As early as 1720 they had a chain of forts extending from Canada to the mouth of the Mississippi.

In 1762, by the treaty of Fontainebleau, all the territory east of the Mississippi with the reservation of the island of New Orleans was ceded to the British, and the territory west of the great river, including New Orleans, was granted to Spain. In 1765 the British took formal possession of the country through the military authority of Capt. Sterling, a British officer who was sent to exact allegiance from its inhabitants.

The cession of this region to Great Britain and their occupancy of the territory caused dissatisfaction among the natives, who were unwilling to abandon their hunting-grounds, to which many of them were attached as the inheritance of their fathers. They determined to drive the invaders from their soil, and under Pontiac, an Ottawa chief, who was an ally of the French, had seen much service and was famous as a great warrior. "He organized one of the most formidable combinations that the English on this continent were ever called upon to encounter. Having embraced in the league all the tribes from the lakes to the Carolinas and from the Mississippi to the Alleghanies, he conceived the idea of attacking simultaneously all the English forts throughout the west, stretching from Mackinac to Cumberland, and numbering not less than sixteen. He assigned particular tribes to perform a particular work, and on the appointed day the assault was made and all but three of the forts succumbed. Pontiac himself led the assault on Fort Detroit, but his scheme having been divulged by a squaw the night previously, was unsuccessful."

Pontiac being disappointed in his attempt returned from further warfare, and leaving his native haunts in the vicinity of Detroit, he lodged on the banks of the Mississippi, near Cahokia, and here he was assassinated by an Indian of the Peoria tribe. This assassination is laid to the charge of the English, who resorted to this method to remove a formidable enemy. It is presumed that his remains rest near the place where he met his fate. The treacherous murder of the great chief created great hostility against the tribes of Illinois from those of the north, and the former were well nigh exterminated by the latter.

"In 1765 Col. George Croghan was sent west as a commissioner



to conciliate the Indians. He descended the Ohio as far as Shawneetown, and thence proceeded to Vincennes, when, after pausing a few days, he ascended the Wabash 210 miles to the Ouiatonon, or Weastown as it was called by the Americans, and thence crossed over to Detroit."

In 1776 the relations of the colonies with the mother country were severed by the Declaration of Independence. This territory was held under the state authorities of Virginia. At this time the French were still occupying the posts all along the Mississippi, and had manifested a want of sympathy with the revolution struggle; as they had affiliated with the natives for nearly a century and had intermarried into the various tribes, had done but little to improve the country but were satisfied to live in a rude and uncivilized state, and looked with but little favor upon any change of government or civilization that would tend to disturb their manner of life. That they might be made feel and acknowledge the sovereignty of the United States, the governor and council of Virginia sent an expedition of two hundred men, who enlisted for three months, under the command of George Rogers Clark, a Kentucky backwoodsman, to occupy this territory. Clark embarked with his force at Pittsburgh, and descended the Ohio river to within forty miles of its mouth, where he landed, and after concealing his boats "he marched across the country to Kaskaskia, where the first surrender was made without resistance; their example being followed by a general surrender and acknowledgment of the sovereignty of the United States by taking the oath of allegiance to the constitutional authorities of the government."

In October of that year (1776) the general assembly of the State of Virginia constituted the county of Illinois, which embraced all the territory north of the Ohio river. In this relation it remained until 1783, in which year that "state passed an act authorizing the cession to the United States of this territory, and during the subsequent year the deed was executed."

At a session of congress held in New York an ordinance was passed June 11, 1787, titled "An ordinance for the government of the territory of the United States Northwest of the Ohio." This act forever excluded slavery from this part of the country, which has proved to be a very important measure, in having much to do with the future of this great nation; for had this vast territory been open to the introduction of American slavery it would have been quite different with the progress and freedom which now characterize the political and social economy of the nation; and no people have greater cause to be grateful for the wise enactment than those who live on the fertile soil of the vast prairies of the northwest.

There were at this time but few Americans in this territory. Virginia having found it impracticable to maintain an outpost at so great a distance in a wilderness, the men were "quartered on the French residents, but ultimately were compelled to shift for themselves. And a few Americans who had accompanied this expedition found their way into the French villages along the Mississippi and remained."

In 1781 an expedition started from Maryland consisting of five men, James Moore, Shadrach Bond, Robert Kidd, Larkin Rutherford and James Garrison, who, taking their wives and children with them, pushed out into the western wilds. They crossed the Alleghanies to the Ohio river, down which they passed to the Mississippi; thence up that stream to Kaskaskia, where they separated and settled in different localities of that part of the territory. The first three settled on what was known as the "American Bottom," while the other two pushed on to Bellefontaine.

In the year 1781 a small colony from the State of Massachusetts, under the direction of Gen. Rufus Putnam, settled on the Ohio at the mouth of the Muskingum river, on the present site of Marietta, Ohio. It is claimed that this was the first organized English settlement in this vast northwestern territory, and that Marietta is the oldest town of the same origin northwest of the Ohio river.

"Prior to the year 1788 there were about forty-five improvements made by Americans, which entitled each to 400 acres of land under a subsequent act of congress, which was passed in 1791."

The General Assembly of Virginia, on the 30th of December, 1788, passed an act authorizing the division of the Northwestern Territory into republican states. In recognition of this the congress of the United States, on August 7, 1789, passed enactments providing for its government, and in 1791 there were but sixty-five Americans who were capable of bearing arms.

*First Civil Government.*—In 1788 Arthur St. Clair located at Marietta, Ohio, to exercise official functions as governor of the territory, to which administrative position he had been appointed. Here he organized a territorial government, and in 1790 he proceeded to Kaskaskia on the Mississippi and effected a county organization, which he named St. Clair. It was under this official act that Illinois was first placed under civil jurisdiction. The first territorial legislature met at Cincinnati in September 1799, at which time William Henry Harrison was elected the first delegate to congress.

On the 7th of May, 1800, the territory was divided by an act of congress, into two separate governments. At this time the population of Illinois, which numbered about three thousand souls, were of French ancestry, and occupied the southern part of the state.

Under this governmental provision the territory remained but nine years, when, in 1809, Illinois was set apart to herself under a territorial government; and in 1812 a legislature was convened and a delegate to congress chosen.

The organization of the Illinois state government was authorized by an act of congress passed on the 18th of April 1818; and on the 18th day of December following Illinois was admitted into the Union as the twenty-second state.

*Military Posts.*—At the organization of the Illinois state government, the northern region of the state was not opened to settlements, in which state it remained until after the Black Hawk war, in 1832; being occupied by the Chippewas, Ottawas, and Pottawatomies of the Illinois and Milwaukee. The government had, as early as 1804, established a military post at Fort Dearborn, on the present site of the city of Chicago. This fort was garrisoned with a company of infantry, who maintained amicable relations with the natives until after the declaration of war, in 1812, when the Indians became restless and gathered in the vicinity of the fort with evident signs of hostility. Under orders from the war department, Captain Heald negotiated with the Indians that he might withdraw from the fort, leaving for them the “provisions and munitions in the fort.” But, true to the Indian character they ambuscaded the command when two miles from the fort, but two or three escaping to record the fate of their comrades. Four years following, in 1816, the fort was rebuilt and garrisoned by two companies of infantry, who gathered the bleaching bones of those who fell in the massacre four years before, and carefully interred them with appropriate ceremonies.

*Mineral.*—The first discovery of coal ever made on the American continent was by Father Hennepin, a Jesuit priest, at Fort Creve-cœur, on the Illinois, in 1679. He not only indicated on his map a “coal-mine,” but wrote in his journal that “there are mines of coal, slate, and iron.” The next discovery recorded was ninety years later, in 1765, by Col. George Croghan, when as Indian commissioner for the government he visited Illinois. He wrote in his journal, “On the south side of the Ouabache (Wabash, probably below Covington) runs a high bank in which are several fine coal-mines.” This precedes the discoveries of the Pennsylvania coal beds, and strange as it seems the honor of the discovery of this fossil product was left to the great prairie state of Illinois.

## TOPOGRAPHY OF LEE COUNTY.

*Geographical Position.*—Lee county lies between 41 and 42 degrees north latitude, and its longitude is 12 degrees and 30 minutes west of Washington. It is in the northern quarter of the State of Illinois in the third tier of counties from the northern boundary of the state; the eastern border of the county being near the median line north and south between Lake Michigan and the Mississippi river, and sixty-two miles west of Chicago. It is divided, north and south, by the third principal meridian, leaving Ranges 1 and 2 east, and Ranges 8, 9, 10 and 11 west of said line.

Lee county embraces 792 square miles, and is bounded on the east by De Kalb; on the south by La Salle and Bureau; on the west by Whiteside, and on the north by Ogle county. The extreme length of the county east and west is thirty six miles, and the extreme width north and south is twenty-two on the western boundary line, and eighteen on the eastern line. A variance arises from an angle in the northern boundary line fourteen sections east of the northwest corner of the township where it turns to the south one mile, thence east on the section line to the northeast corner of the county, throwing the northern tier of sections from the point above mentioned into Ogle county, though it geographically belongs to Lee county. The northern boundary line also makes a deviation to the north and south, following the "grand detoure" of the river, throwing all the land north of the detour into Ogle county.

The southern boundary beginning with Range 8, between Townships 18 and 19, runs east to the third principal meridian, where it turns three miles north on said line, then east to the southeast corner of the county. For convenience in civil purposes it is divided into twenty-two civil townships.

In physical geography Lee is unsurpassed by any other county in the state. It not only presents the quiet beauty of rounded outlines of the prairie, but the rugged grandeur of river bluffs and rocky fastnesses. There are beautiful landscapes clothed with grassy plains, interspersed with pleasant groves and forests of useful timber, generally of a few hundred acres in extent, breaking the usual monotony of the prairie landscape at very frequent intervals, and affording a supply of fuel and fencing material. The county, however, is principally prairie.

The surface of the land in the county varies from the low swamps of the south to the Rock river bluffs of the north. In the southwest corner of the county we meet with the Winnebago swamp which extends in a belt two and three miles in width across Hamilton township from the southwest to the northeast into the north part of



East Grove and the south part of Marion township, and sends a branch west through the southern portion of Harmon township. This swamp is fed from the drainage of Inlet swamp, which is situated east of the center of the county embracing a portion of the west of Viola township, the southeast corner of Bradford and the northeast of Lee Center. The drainage of this into the Winnebago is through Inlet creek which flows to the southwest, watering the Inlet grove in Lee Center, passes to the south of the city of Amboy, and spreads its waters into the latter swamp; it is fringed in its meandering course by groves of timber. As we go to the east from the Winnebago swamp the land becomes rolling and of a sandy loam soil of beautiful prairie dotted with groves to the eastern boundary of the county. The Paw Paw grove, south of the village bearing that name in Wyoming township, and Malugin's grove ten or twelve miles east of the city of Amboy, are the largest in that part of the county, each covering from one to two thousand acres. These furnish much valuable timber for fuel and fencing purposes.

South of Amboy city we meet with a tract of timber-land embracing eighteen or twenty square miles. Along Rock river in the northwest quarter of the county is found the largest timber supply. Among the most valuable woods found there may be mentioned: oak of different varieties, hickory, sugar maple, ash, poplar, etc., of abundant supply for present demands. Lee county, however, cannot boast the luxuriant growth of timber found in other sections of the country, as on the Ohio and Wabash rivers. Dr. Foster, speaking of the northern part of the state, appropriately adds: "The absence of a forest growth is no detriment to its development, since beneath the surface at accessible depths are stored inexhaustible supplies of fossil fuel, and the borders of the upper lakes are fringed with forests of pine affording the best quality of lumber, which can be delivered in the Chicago market at comparatively cheap rates. The soil which sustains these pine forests contains only three or four per cent of organic matter and is unfit for agriculture; while the prairie soil contains organic matter sufficient for fifty successive crops." It is, therefore, more to the material interests of the county to draw her supplies of lumber from other sources than to divert her fertile acres from the growing of grain and other products of husbandry.

*Origin of the Prairies.*—"This is not due," says Foster, "so much to the mechanical texture, or chemical composition of the soil, but to the unequal distribution of moisture. They are the phase in a gradation between the densely wooded belt, where the moisture is equally distributed, and the inhospitable desert, where it is almost

wholly withheld. The excess of moisture which is precipitated on the plains during the spring and summer months, and the consequent deficiency which ensues during the fall and winter months, are conditions not favorable to the growth of trees. Leaving the thickly wooded crests of the Alleghanies, and traveling westward to the base of the Rocky mountains, the observer will witness the gradual disappearance of those noble forms of arborescent vegetation which are dependent for their growth on an abundant, equable supply of moisture, and their final replacement by other forms, like the cactus and artemisia, which flourish where the moisture is almost wholly withheld."

Beginning on the east line of the county, five sections north of the southeast corner and in the vicinity of Paw Paw, we find the beginning of a ridge which extends westward two townships, where it bears to the southwest through Sublette township, at which point is the greatest altitude between Mendota and Dixon, sloping off to the Winnebago flats. There is a depression on the face of the land, entering the county on the east and about midway north and south, which runs westward through Willow and Viola townships, then bearing to the south it extends to the southwest corner of the county, where we find the greatest depression. As we advance northward we cross a ridge which passes from the eastern boundary along the northern third of the county westward to the median line north and south where it meets a like ridge extending down from the north, then bearing southwest it becomes less prominent as it reaches the western border of the county, between the low lands of the Winnebago swamp on the south and the tributaries to Rock river on the north. As we advance to the north in the western third of the county we come to the high lands and bluffs of Rock river, covered with timber and presenting many attractions in connection with the meandering waters of this beautiful and historic stream.

On the banks of Rock river and in the vicinity of Dixon are natural observatories, from which the eye is greeted with such grandeur of scenery as inspired the poetic mind of the honored Bryant, whose visit to this county is recorded in the following pages. Of those most prominent may be mentioned the Clarks bluffs, on the south side of the river and about three miles below the city of Dixon; and the "Hazlewood" bluffs, on the farm of "Gov." Axa. Charters, which lies west of the river and about two miles north of the city. The forests and rocky fastnesses of the region of Rock river have been so preserved in their rude native character, as not only to be attractive to the eyes of men who appreciate the charms of nature, but to the fowls and wild beasts of former days. The hunter's rifle occa-

sionally brings down the gray wild-cat, and his hounds bay after the retreating wolf which has chanced to wander down from the forests of Wisconsin.

William C. Bryant, the poet, writing a letter after his visit to Rock river, in 1841, described his ride through Lee county as follows: "As we descended into the prairie we were struck with the novelty and beauty of the prospect which lay before us. The ground sank gradually and gently into a low but immense basin, in the midst of which lies the marshy tract called the Winnebago swamp. To the northeast the sight was intercepted by a forest in the midst of the basin but to the northwest the prairies were seen swelling up again in the smoothest slopes to their usual height, and stretching away to a distance so vast that it seemed boldness in the eye to follow them. We reached the Winnebago swamps, a tract covered with tall and luxuriant water-grass, which we crossed on a causeway built by a settler who keeps a toll-gate, and at the end of the causeway we forded a small stream called Winnebago Inlet. Crossing another vast prairie we reached the neighborhood of Dixon, the approach of which was denoted by groves, farm-houses, herds of cattle, and enclosed corn-fields checkering the broad, green prairie."

The general slope of this county is, with that of the most of the state, to the southwest. The greatest depression in the county is, as above given, in the southwest corner, known as the Winnebago lands, which are doubtless the bed of an ancient lake, and ere long will be valuable lands. The greatest altitude in the county is reached on the Rock river heights, in the northwest corner of the county.

The drainage is generally good through many tributaries to Rock river on the north and Inlet creek on the south. The northern third of the county is drained by the smaller streams which flow from the dividing ridge, above referred to, which extends from the northeast to the southwest, emptying their waters into Rock river. These tributaries flow to the northwest, cutting their course through the bluffs to mingle with the latter stream. The central and southern part of the county are drained by creeks and brooks which pour their waters into Inlet swamp and Green river. The largest of these is Willow creek, which rises in De Kalb county on the east, and crossing near the middle of the east line of Lee, continues westward until lost amid the grass and rushes of Inlet swamp. A few miles south of this creek, about the village of Paw Paw, in Wyoming township, is an elevated tract of land which becomes the dividing ridge between the headwaters of Green river and Kite creek, which rises in the southeast corner of Lee county, and running south through Beau-reau it empties into the Illinois within the borders of Putnam

county. The central-west of the township is drained by the Three Mile branch and the Five Mile creek. The former heads in the vicinity of Nachusa, and meandering westward, passing Dixon three miles to the south, as its name indicates, it empties into Rock river near the county line. The Five Mile creek rises near Eldena Station, west of the center of the county, and flows westward to the county line and pours its waters into the Rock river within the borders of Whitesides county. Its waters are shaded much of its way by the forest timber that fringe its banks. These streams are of much value to the inhabitants through whose fields they flow.

The township of Palmyra, in the northwestern part of the county, is traversed by Sugar creek, which crosses the extreme corner of the county, passing through the beautiful Sugar grove, which stands near the center of the above township, and after emerging from Lee county empties into Rock river.

*Rivers and Navigation.*—The principal stream in Lee county is Rock river, which crosses the northwest corner, separating Palmyra and Dixon townships from the other portion of the county. It first reaches the county from the north, twelve miles east of the western boundary, and flows one mile south, then turning to the west it makes a detour back to the north, and passes west of the first point one-half to three-quarters of a mile. Then making another grand detour to the north and west, returns and enters Lee county nine miles east of the northwest corner. From this point of entrance it bears to the east on its southern course for two or three miles, then sweeps off to the southwest, cutting its way through the rocks and bluffs, making a gentle curve here and there on its way, as if to add to its attractiveness and beauty, and emerges from the county, crossing the western line nine miles south.

The beauty and attractions of this river are not equaled by any other stream in the state. The Rock River valley has been the theme of the richest prose and the sweetest poetry. It has awakened the poetical genius of a William Cullen Bryant, and a Margaret Fuller Ossoli. The former, when on a visit to Rock river in 1841, feasted his eyes on the grand scenery presented to his view, as he stood on Hazlewood looking out on the silvery stream, as it flowed majestically through the forest and plains, and murmured at the base of the rocks and bluffs. On his return home he wrote, on the 21st of June, as follows: "I have just returned from an excursion to Rock river, one of the most beautiful of our western streams. It flows through high prairies and, not like most streams of the west, through an alluvial country. The current is rapid, and the pellucid waters glide over a bottom of sand and pebbles. Its admirers de-



clare that its shores unite the beauties of the Hudson and of the Connecticut. The banks on either side are high and bold; sometimes they are perpendicular precipices, the bases of which stand in running water; sometimes they are steep, grassy, or rocky bluffs, with a space of alluvial land between them and the stream; sometimes they rise by a gradual and easy ascent to the general level of the region, and sometimes this ascent is interrupted by a broad, natural terrace. Majestic trees grow solitary or in clumps on the grassy acclivities, or scattered in natural parks along the lower lands upon the river, or in thick groves along the edge of the high country. Back of the bluffs extend a fine agricultural region, rich prairies with an undulating surface, interspersed with groves. At the foot of the bluffs break forth copious springs of clear water, which hasten in the little brooks to the river. In a drive which I took up the left bank of the river I saw three of these in the space of as many miles. One of these is the spring which supplies the town of Dixon with water; this spring is now overflowed by the dam across the river; the next is a beautiful fountain rushing out from the rocks in the midst of a clump of trees, as merrily and in as great a hurry as a boy let out from school; the third is so remarkable as to have received a name. It is a little rivulet issuing from a cavern six or seven feet high, and about twenty from the entrance to the further end, at the foot of a perpendicular precipice covered with forest trees and fringed with bushes.

“In the neighborhood of Dixon a class of emigrants have established themselves (in 1841), more opulent and luxurious in their tastes than most of the settlers of the western country. Some of these have built elegant homes on the left bank of the river, amidst the noble trees which seem to have grown up for that very purpose. Indeed, when I looked at them I could hardly persuade myself that they had not been planted to overshadow older habitations. From the door of one of these dwellings I surveyed a prospect of exceeding beauty. The windings of the river allowed us a sight of its waters and its beautifully diversified banks to a great distance each way, and in one direction a high prairie region was seen above the woods that fringed the course of the river of a lighter green than they, and touched with the golden light of the setting sun.

“I am told that the character of Rock river is, throughout its course, much as has been described in the neighborhood of Dixon; that its banks are high and free from marshes, and its water rapid and clear, from its source in Wisconsin to where it enters the Mississippi amidst rocky islands.”

Many springs empty their pure, cool waters into this stream,

which give it a purity which but few waters of its size possess. The river being largely fed by inexhaustible fountains, it never falls so low as most streams do in the dry summer season, and the waters that are ever flowing are cool and refreshing, making it the best stock-watering stream in the state.

Adding much to the charming beauty of the Rock river are her numerous islands which divide her waters, and being carpeted with green, tender grass, interspersed with beds of wild flowers, are as beautiful as a cultivated lawn. Some are shaded with forests, while the brows of the precipitous shores are fringed with trees of smaller growths, from which the plain stretches across the valley to the bluffs, presenting a scene most picturesque. There are not less than twenty-five of these islands in the river's course through Lee county. One a short distance above the Dixon bridge is set with forest trees, and were it not for the occasional overflows it could be made a spot of pleasant resort during the hot days of the summer months. At this writing, April 20, it is covered with several feet of water, and presents the view of a beautiful forest set in a crystal lake.

But as attractive as Rock river is in her ordinary mood, she is not always as serene and gentle as poets have written of her, but at times in her fury has challenged the boldness of a Byron rather than the gentleness of the classic poetry of a Bryant, who through his admiration for the beautiful river eulogized her as not subject to high flows as many of her sister streams. She has at times been profligate with property and life.

On March 20, 1847, a rise of water with floating ice carried away the north half of the toll bridge, which had been finished some time during the winter, causing an outlay of \$2,000 to make repairs. And in June, 1851, the river overflowed its banks with two feet of water on the public road around the Grand Detour, where on the 18th of that month a stage crossing the flow was precipitated into ten feet of water, drowning all the horses, and with the almost miraculous escape of human life thus imperiled. Referring to this freshet the city papers congratulated the citizens of Dixon on the fortunate escape of the dam from the fate of most of the dams on the river, in the following strain: "The dam at this place has thus far successfully withstood the tremendous rush of the high-water current, and we think it will still do so. Other dams of Rock river we learn have been compelled to yield." On February 14, 1857, the water rose to the tops of the bridge-piers which stood below the railroad bridge, and lifting up the solid ice which had formed around the piers carried the entire bridge structure up with it from its resting places, but the ice not breaking up it was let down again, but not without dam-

age, as it had to be rebuilt. About ten days later the toll bridge at the foot of Ottawa street was carried away by the high water and floating ice. And on June 3, the following year (1858), the papers of Dixon made the following announcement: "Rock river at this time is higher than we have ever known it. Both the wagon bridges at this place have suffered in consequence of the flood. The free bridge, but a small portion of which was carried away, will be repaired immediately. Steps will be taken by our citizens to build a new bridge in place of the one swept away at the foot of Galena street." In the following February (1859) the breaking up of the ice by a heavy freshet carried away the dam and the new toll bridge. The editorials of the 20th of the same month said: "The dam became so clogged with floating ice that the weight caused it to give way, descending ice and dam together, against the new bridge erected only four months since; it swept away two bents at one crash, and later two more were taken. The bridge will be repaired immediately in order to have it ready for the next descent, but in the meantime the northsiders, by going three miles and paying 25 cents, can reach town over the free bridge." Two months later, April 23, two factories and a saw-mill at the north end of the bridge were under-washed by the rushing waters from the dam, and when the buildings were slowly moving toward the water, which was twenty feet deep, the machinery was removed, and fire set to the buildings to save the bridge below from the fate of the one that had been swept away so recently.

March 7, 1868, the high waters with floating ice swept away the free bridge and battered down one pier of the railroad bridge, precipitating two spans into the river. It also washed out 120 feet of the south end of the dam.

At the present writing Rock river is recording another epoch in her historic fame. The tide is rushing down like a mighty ocean, overflowing her banks at a depth, it is claimed, much greater than ever known. The water is fifteen feet above low-water mark, and two feet above the highest, with a velocity in the current of six to seven miles per hour.

The Dixon Telegraph says: "The freshet which now rages down the Rock river is one of the most remarkable ever known. At the present writing (April 20) the water in the river is nearly two feet higher than the highest water mark registered by the oldest inhabitant, and the flood is still swelling, and 'Where will it stop?' is the anxious inquiry of every one. Water street, below Galena, is covered; and Col. Dement was compelled to move his horses from the stable, and has since commenced moving out of his residence. On the



north side about twenty families were compelled to leave their houses; the flats below Bridge street are completely inundated, and people are working in boats to secure barns, sheds, and other out buildings from being carried down the river. The water sweeps over the street at the north end of the bridge over two feet deep."

*Green River.*—This stream rises in the Inlet swamp east of the center of the county, as has been described, and flowing to the southwest through a beautiful grove in Lee Center township, meandering on to the south of Amboy city to the great Winnebago swamp, emerging from the county at the southwest corner, from which point it continues on through Bureau and Henry counties to mingle its waters with those of Rock river a few miles east of the city of Rock Island. This stream with its tributaries traverses the entire length of the county, through the Winnebago basin, which begins in the county eastward and gently recedes to the southwest, extending far beyond the boundary of Lee county.

#### NATURAL HISTORY.

*Timber.*—The emigrants to this county, as in most of northern Illinois, had not to contend with a universal primeval forest, as in many portions of the west. There were no great forests to hew down with the axe, and by patient toil for a generation to clear up a farm for their sons to inherit; but they found, interspersed over a fertile prairie, groves of timber of almost every variety common to this latitude; soft and sugar maple; black walnut and butternut; yellow and white poplar; oak, of white, black and other varieties; of ash we find the white and black varieties; hickory of the principle varieties; lin or basswood, gum, ironwood, cherry, crab-apple, wild plum, thorn, hazel, etc.

Flowers and plants of great variety, embracing the timber and prairie flowers of almost every kind and hue found in the latitude, decorate the grassy prairie, the rocky bluffs and borders of the streams. Among the prairie plants may be mentioned one that has proved an annoyance to many an unsuspecting traveler, is what is commonly known as the "Wild Parsenip." The great poet William C. Bryant says of this plant: "Let me caution all emigrants to Illinois not to handle too familiarly the 'Wild Parsenip,' as it is commonly called, an umbelliferous plant growing in the moist prairies of this region. I have handled it, and have paid dearly for it, having such a swelled face that I could scarcely see for several days."

*Wild Animals.*—Of the nobler beasts of the unbroken prairie and wild forest was the buffalo, more properly called bison, cover-

ing the prairies in great herds; while the stately elk, the timid deer, and fleet antelope roamed over the plains and through the groves. The tender, juicy grass of the plain, the cool shades of the groves, and the refreshing waters of the fountains and streams that abound in this country, make it a paradise for the wild grazing herds. But these have retreated before advancing civilization beyond the great waters of the Mississippi, while some of their number have left their bones to bleach on the prairies and mingle with the soil of Lee county, though their kind are now far removed from the reach of the hunter's rifle. Of carnivorous beasts were the bear, the prairie and timber wolf, the wild-cat, the lynx, and the panther. The bear and the panther have disappeared from the habitation of the old pioneers of the county. In addition to these may be mentioned a variety of smaller animals, such as the beaver, the otter, the mink, and the muskrat, of the amphibious animals; the woodchuck, the red and gray fox, the raccoon, the opossum, the skunk, and the brown and white weasel. These are valuable for their fur. The smaller animals are the prairie squirrel, gray and striped, Norway rats, moles, and the invincible mouse.

*Fowls.*—The native fowls of Lee county embrace almost every species from the bald-eagle down to the humming bird. Among the game fowl may be mentioned the wild swan, goose, brant and duck among the water-fowls that throng the rivers, ponds, and lakes; the plover, snipe, woodcock, prairie chicken, pheasant, quail, wild pigeon, turtle dove, and meadow lark. To these may be added water-fowls that attract but little attention by the epicurean; such as the sand-hill crane, and his smaller neighbors; the king fisher, etc. Of forest birds are found the bluejay, the robin, the bluebird, the peewee, and many others usually found in this latitude. The Virginia nightingale, commonly called the "redbird," seldom appears in the forests in this vicinity; and the same may be said of many birds of beautiful plumage and sweet song that are found in the more southern sections of the state. A variety of rapacious and vulturous birds are also found; the bald eagle, the vulture, the buzzard, the crow, and a number of different kinds of the hawk species. The crow has appeared in the more modern years of the county's history. It was formerly unknown in this part of the country. The plaintive notes of the whip-poor-will are occasionally heard at nightfall coming from the shady grove.

In an early day the water-fowls visited the waters of Lee county in great numbers. It was one of these annual visitors that awakened the poetical genius of Bryant when he wrote that excellent and classic poem :



## TO A WATERFOWL.

"Whither, midst falling dew,  
While glow the heavens with the last steps of day,  
Far through their rosy depths dost thou pursue  
Thy solitary way?"

Vainly the fowler's eye  
Might mark thy distant flight to do thee harm.  
As, darkly limned upon the crimson sky,  
Thy figure floats along.

Seek'st thou the plashy brink  
Of weedy lake, or marge of river wide,  
Or where the rocking billows rise and sink  
On the chafed ocean side?

There is a power whose care  
Teaches thy way along that pathless coast—  
The desert and illimitable air—  
Lone wandering, but not lost.

All day thy wings have fanned  
At that far height, the cold, thin atmosphere,  
Yet stoop not weary, to the welcome land,  
Though the dark night is near.

And soon that toil shall end;  
Soon shalt thou find a summer home and rest,  
And scream among thy fellows; reeds shall bend  
Soon o'er thy sheltered nest.

Thou'rt gone, the abyss of heaven  
Hath swallowed up thy form; yet on my heart  
Deeply hath sunk the lesson thou hast given,  
And shall not soon depart.

He who from zone to zone  
Guides through the boundless sky thy certain flight,  
In the long way that I must tread alone  
Will lead my steps aright."

*Pisciculture.*—Nature did much in stocking the streams of Lee county with a variety of fish; and some of choice quality. Among the native tribes are found the pike, the pickerel, the several varieties of perch; of bass, both rock and black; the cat and buffalo; of suckers are caught the black, the white and red-horse. From the great numbers of these latter which, in an early day, passed up the rock river in the spring and returned in the fall, the state has received its vulgar name of the Sucker State. The modern improvements on the river, dams, drainage from manufactories, and the seine, have reduced their number.

## GEOLOGICAL FORMATIONS.

The geological formations of Lee county are of more than usual interest, both to the mechanic and artist. There is found the finest building rock, and the purest for manufacturing quicklime; and fossil rock capable of the highest polish, presenting a face variegated and beautiful. The scientist may find almost every formation from the lower silurian system up to the alluvium forming the basis of the fertile soil of this region of country.

In the vicinity of Rock river may be found the St. Peter's sandstone which out-crops on the river above Grand Detour. We find the Trenton or buff, and blue lime; Galena limestone, without mineral deposits as at Galena; Cincinnati group; green and blue shales, with surface deposits; sands, clays, soils, and gravel beds.

Quarries of the finest building rock are found along the Rock river for miles below and above Dixon. Those below are of lime and sand, and work easily when just removed from the quarry, but harden on exposure to the atmosphere, a quality very desirable in building rock. A blue limestone quarry is situated three miles north of Dixon, west of the river, on Alex. Charter's farm; and a little below this is Strong's quarry of the same kind of rock. The same is quarried on the east side of the river two miles northeast of Dixon; and going twelve miles east of Dixon, along the northern border of the county, it crops out at Ashton, where some of the finest quality of building stone is quarried. A quarry is also opened on the farm of R. M. Peile, Reynold township. Lee Center furnishes building stone for the necessary supply of all demands in the central part of the county.

An extensive lime kiln and quarry, known as Dement & De Puy's quarry, are located on the south side of the river above the water-power, and under the College hill.

The geology of Lee county is rich with scientific interest, and abounds in some localities with fossil deposits. Two or three miles northeast of Dixon, and east of Rock river, are quarried the finest specimens of fossil rock, composed of shells of various varieties, and so imbedded together as to form a texture as compact as marble, and capable of as fine a polish.

The geological deposit of primary importance is the quarternary system, which embraces all the superficial material, including gravel, sands, clays, and soils. These are the more recent accumulations, which cover the older formations and lay the foundation and give origin to the soil from which we derive our agricultural resources. "This system may be properly separated into four divisions, to wit: post-tertiary, sands, and clays, drift clay and gravel, loess and allu-

vium. The post-tertiary sands occupy the lowest portion in the series, and consist of beds of stratified yellow sand and blue clay of variable thickness, overlaid by a black or chocolate-colored loam soil, containing leaves, branches, and trunks of trees in a good state of preservation. This is an ancient soil which has been covered by the drift deposits, consisting of blue, yellow or brown clays, containing gravel and boulders of various sizes," water-worn fragments of rocks, which have been carried down from the northern shores of the great lakes. Above this we sometimes meet with beds of gravel.

The subsoil over the northern part of the state is predicated upon the drift deposits, but it differs from them essentially in its character, and probably owes its origin to other and more recent causes than the drift agencies. It is generally composed of fine brown clay, which differs in its appearance from the clays of the drift. Hence we may infer that its origin is due to some cause subsequent in its action to the accumulation of these deposits, and uniform in its effects over formations essentially different in their constituent materials. In the first volume of the report on the Illinois survey Prof. Lesquereux has given the following on the formation of the prairies, which explains the origin of the brown clay and the subsoil above it. He says: "It is evident that the black soil of their surface (the prairies), as well as the clayey sub-soil, whatever the thickness of these strata may be, have been formed in place by the agency and growth of a peculiar vegetation. In stagnant water, whenever water is low enough to admit the transmission of light and air of sufficient quantity to sustain vegetable life, the bottom is first invaded by *confervæ*, and especially by *characæ*, and a peculiar kind of floating moss (*hypnum aduncum*). These plants contain in their tissue a great proportion of lime alumina, silica, and even of oxide of iron, the elements of clay. When exposed to atmospheric influence the *characæ* become covered with an efflorescence of scarcely carbonized or pure iron. Moreover, this vegetation of the low, stagnant waters feeds a prodigious quantity of small mollusks and infusoria, whose shells and detritus greatly add to the deposits. The final result of the decomposition of the whole matter is that fine clay of the sub-soil of the prairies which is indeed truly impalpable when dried and pulverized and unmixed with sands."

While it seems entirely satisfactory to recognize the origin of the soil of the prairies from the growth and decay of vegetable matter in shallow ponds and marshes, with the animal remains that abounded in them, there are, however, traces of currents of water and floating ice generally from the north, though it is claimed by good authority

that there were counter currents. Boulders are found in different parts of the country, distributed over the surface of the ground, which have been carried down by the moving ice and deposited as strangers on the prairie soil. A good place to study these stones is on the bluffs southeast of Rock river, about one mile above Dixon, and on the east slope of a ravine that drains into that river opposite the island.

Along the bluffs of Rock river may be found the loess deposit, which is described as "a fine mechanical sediment that seems to have accumulated in a quiet lake or other body of fresh water. It is composed of brown, buff or ashen gray marley, sands, and clays, and contains numerous land and fresh-water shells of the same species with those inhabiting the land and waters of the adjacent region."

Along the Rock river valley and in the Inlet and Winnebago basin we meet with alluvium, as well as along some of the smaller streams. This consists of sand, clay, and loam, irregularly stratified with greater or less organic matter from the decomposed animal and vegetable substances that are imbedded therein.

The soil of Lee county is fertile, well drained, and adapted to agriculture and stock growing. A number of the citizens of the county are engaged in the latter, and have many broad acres set in clover and blue-grass, which grow most luxuriantly.

#### EARLY HISTORY.

*Prior to the Black Hawk war.*—For the early history of the territory now embraced in Lee county we are called back to the early days of Dixon's Ferry. It was the establishment of this enterprise, as the first improvement of the country, that invited to the banks of Rock river the early pioneer settlement, that laid the foundation for the future development of an intelligent and prosperous community, and the building of the city of Dixon. The circumstances leading to the discovery of this locality have been noticed in their proper relations to the discovery of Lee county.

Prior to the establishment of the ferry at this place, the broad, fertile prairies and the beautiful groves of Lee county were left to the wild beasts and wandering tribes of aborigines. The Galena mines having been opened, there was a rush of emigration to that locality from the southern settlements along the Illinois river, by the Rock Island route. But a Mr. O. W. Kellogg taking the more direct route from Peoria—then Fort Clark—drove his team across the country, in 1827, traversing the wild prairies, fording streams, and camping at night without any shelter save the starry expanse above, which seemed like a vast crystal canopy resting down upon



the boundless prairie sea which surrounded him on every side. Reaching Rock river he crossed the stream at a point a few miles above the present site of the city of Dixon, probably at the head of Truman's Island; passed between what is now known as Polo and Mount Morris; thence west of West Grove, from which point he turned north to Galena. This prairie path-finder opened the route afterward known as "Kellogg's Trail." This path was soon occupied by many fortune seekers, who disregarded the fertile soil over which they were passing, and in which mines of wealth were stored that would be inexhaustible for generations to come. Soon, however, it was discovered that this was not the most direct communication between the lower settlements and the mines, hence in the spring of 1828 John Boles, bearing to the west of Kellogg's Trail, crossed Rock river at the present site of Dixon, not far from the location of the Galena street bridge, possibly a few rods below this point. This path, known as "Bole's Trail," became the common route between the above points.

The crossing of the river prior to the establishment of the ferry was attended with difficulties and perils. The method is described by John K. Robinson in the following manner: "The method of crossing the river with teams before the establishment of a ferry was primitive and simple. On arriving at the place of crossing the wagons were unloaded and the loads carried over in canoes by the Indians. The wagon was then driven with the side to the stream and two wheels lifted into a canoe, then shoved a little out into the river; another canoe received the other two wheels, when the double boat was paddled or poled to the other side. The horses were taken by the bridle and made to swim by the side of the canoe, while the cattle swam loose. Then commenced the lifting out of the wagon and reloading, after which the journey was renewed, and all hands happy that the task of crossing the river was completed."

"Once James P. Dixon, well acquainted with the hardship of crossing, arriving on the banks of the river with the mail wagon called to the Indians for their assistance, but received no answer. Vexed at their delay, and at their arrogance when they did assist, he boldly unchecked his horses so as to give them a chance to swim, and crossed the river with the mail and wagon in safety."

This incident illustrates some of the inconveniences to which the early pioneers were subject. The Indians were not reliable as ferrymen in the manner as above described, being frequently absent, or ill disposed to render immediate assistance; and it was only when the river was low that it could be forded. To relieve the traveling

public of this annoyance, and to open an avenue of pecuniary gain, Mr. J. L. Bogardis, of Peoria, attempted the establishment of a ferry at this point some time in 1827, or early in 1828. The enterprise, however, was a failure; for the reason that the Indians, who had been accustomed to pilot the strangers across the river in their primitive style, were unwilling that the white man should create a competition in the business over which they held a monopoly; and therefore they swooped down upon the two workmen, who had the boat for the ferry well on the way, and burning the superstructure they ordered the men back to the place from which they came. The workmen made a hasty retreat, leaving the red-men in possession of the situation, including a shanty  $8 \times 10$  feet, which they had erected on the bank of the river.

In the spring of 1828 Josep Ogee, a French Indian half-breed and interpreter, settled here, erected a cabin on the bank of the river, and established the first ferry without molestation from the Indians. Ogee's wife was a Pottawatomie woman, and his relations and customs were allied with their own people, so that he was permitted to abide in peace and conduct his ferry until the spring of 1830, when he sold to John Dixon, whose name the city of Dixon bears to-day. Mr. Dixon had induced Ogee to build the ferry to accommodate the United States mail, which he was carrying from Peoria to Galena. On the 11th of April Mr. Dixon arrived at the ferry with his family and took charge of the transportation of the traveling public across the river. He was regarded by the Indians as the "red-man's friend," whom they called "Na-chusa;" which is a contraction of Nadah-churah-sah, and signifies, "head-hair-white;" referring to Mr. Dixon's white, flowing locks, which came prematurely.

The first tavern opened in this vicinity was in 1829, by Isaac Chambers, who built a house for public entertainment in Buffalo Grove, through which he had cut a road for the new trail from the ferry to Galena, two miles distant from the Bole's Trail, which it intersected some distance north of the grove. This was the first white family in this part of the country. That the reader may have a just idea of the hardships of those days, and the primitive style in a pioneer tavern, we give an extract below from the pen of John K. Robinson, an eye witness to many of the things of which he writes, who came to the county in 1832, and became conversant with the facts here related:

"From 1829 to 1835 the travel crossing Rock river at the present site of Dixon was extensive. In early spring the emigration to the lead mines was one perpetual rush—like in character to the gold

fever of later years. It swept over Rock river in swarms of from five to twenty teams a day through May and June; then again there was a mighty stream southward during September and October. Among the many passing through we had of ministers: John Sinclair, John T. Mitchell, and Erastus Kent, all honored as faithful men and able ministers; judges: Thomas Ford, afterward governor of Illinois, and Young; lawyers: Mills and Sheldon; and black-legs whose name is legion. Accommodations were furnished the travelers as far as the beds, bedding, and table room of the "tavern" would reach. Between the two houses forming the long, one-story portion of the building was a ten or twelve foot hall, with a doorway at either end, facing the north and south. Entering the hall from the south, on the west was the family sitting-room, on the east was the travelers' and hired help's room, each room eighteen feet square. The furniture of the west room consisted of two beds, quite a number of chairs, and a table extending clear across the room, where the meals were taken in cold weather; in warm weather the meals were taken in the hall. The east room contained four beds, one in each corner. When driven to extend this bed-room, the "shake-down" was resorted to, which was of common occurrence. A buffalo robe or bear skin spread on the soft side of the floor, with a blanket or quilt for covering, made a bed good enough for anybody. The floor was often covered in both rooms, and the hall filled to overflowing, with these hastily and easily prepared beds. Floor room was not always of sufficient proportion to accommodate the entire party; the remainder encamped all about the premises, there was room enough out doors for all. Owing to the base of supplies being so distant—Peoria ninety miles, and Galena sixty-five miles—we were often driven to extremities. No weather or bad roads satisfied hunger or stayed travel. Armies, feeling this gnawing, grow restless and insubordinate. Our own family and travelers gave vent to human nature without stint. Few could take in the difficulties of having the whole of a large caravan to feed. The Inlet stream was unbridged and frequently swimming, and in that direction our supplies were often crossed under water before they reached us. Our horses were taught swimming and became proficient in that calling. I have been employed a little below the present road crossing Inlet creek, swimming horses and wagons across one way and back the other, for more than two hours at a time, and once safely swam a four-horse team attached to a wagon loaded with lumber across the stream at the imminent risk of myself and team. Mail stages were three times submerged and ruined in Inlet. Northward, Apple river and both Plumb rivers



were alike difficult to cross and much more dangerous, as the crossings were bad and the current rapid.

Father Dixon did his trading with the Indians as a matter of necessity. He had lived at Peoria and learned the character of the average trader and determined to deal more justly with the Indians than had been done. He ingratiated himself with them as their adviser and friend, strongly urging them to a civilized life and habits of sobriety, diligence and honesty. The store-room in which he traded with the Indians was in the east building (the two-story house), where he sold powder, lead, shot, wampum, tobacco, pipes, shrouding (a coarse cloth), blankets, guns, beads, needles, awls, knives, spears, muskrat and otter traps, calicos, etc., and but one thing at a time. Why? The Indian is a thief always and everywhere. In return he had their furs, dressed deer skins, moccasins, and fancy articles made by the female portion of his traders. These found a ready market in Galena, Peoria, and St. Louis.

Directly after taking up his permanent home at Dixon's Ferry, and while coming down the river from the place of ferrying, Father Dixon heard his Indian name excitedly called out. Turning around he saw a naked savage within 100 feet of him running toward him and gesticulating angrily with a muskrat spear which was made of a sharpened 5-8 inch round iron rod, from two to three feet in length, fastened to a wooden handle from four to six feet in length, making a formidable weapon. To defend himself unarmed was impossible; to flee cowardly. He took in the danger, but his manhood refused to carry him out of danger, as his fleetness would have enabled him to do. He boldly faced his adversary, but before the Indian had an opportunity to throw his spear his arms were securely grasped by some of the Indian spectators, who interfered for Dixon's safety. After the drunken debauch was over the Indian asked an interview with Father Dixon, which he refused him until the band to which the Indian belonged interceded for him. Much ceremony suits the Indian; the talk commenced, when the Indian, whose name was Dah-shun-egra, acknowledged his murderous intention; "that bad whisky made bad Indian," and asked forgiveness. He asked Father Dixon what he would have done if he had thrown the spear and missed his aim. In reply Father Dixon said: "Had you thrown the spear and missed me, the spear would have passed by me and I should have reached it first, and should have killed you on the spot with your own spear." His coolness in the hour of danger, and this open avowal of a determined man to defend himself and repel force by force, were qualities that the savages could



fully understand and appreciate. It established Father Dixon's character among the Indians as a White Brave."

While Mr. Dixon carried the United States mail the streams were unbridged, not even "corduroyed;" swamps undrained; roads almost impassable; houses few and far between. Snowstorms were more severe and the cold more intense than in later years. In the winter of 1830-1 (the winter of the deep snow) the snow averaged three feet deep from New Year's Day to the 15th of March. No track was kept open from one settlement to another, and it was with great difficulty that roads were kept open even in densely settled districts. Fifteen to twenty-seven miles was the usual distance between the homes along the route. On one of the longest routes during this memorable winter Mr. Dixon and some of the stage passengers were so benumbed with the cold as to be unable to get out of the stage without assistance.

In the year 1829 a post-office was established at Ogee's Ferry to accommodate the traveling public, and a Mr. Gay was appointed postmaster. In September, 1830, Mr. Dixon superseded Mr. Gay, by government appointment, and in the following year the name of the post-office was changed, as the ferry had been, to Dixon's Ferry. The few settlers who had located in the vicinity of Rockford came to Dixon's Ferry for their mail matter, and being the only ferry crossing for many miles up and down the river, Dixon at this early day was a central point of interest for thirty or forty miles north and south, and from Chicago, a small frontier post, to the Mississippi; and in the time of the Black Hawk war it became the rendezvous of the United States troops. It was the central depot for supplies, and afforded the most advantageous point for military manœuvering.

"At this time," says the "History of Dixon," published in 1880, "the banks of Rock river at the present site of Dixon were gently sloping to the water's edge, covered with grass, not abrupt as at present. Teams were loaded wherever the ferry-boat struck a suitable place on the shores. The ferry-boat was propelled by the old-fashioned 'setting pole,' attended with any amount of fatigue. It was one of the schools of patience in its day. A rope ferry, similar to the one now at Grand Detour, succeeded the primitive institution in 1835. A rope was stretched across the river from the tops of strong posts placed on either bank of the river at Galena street, and with the lee board as motive power more rapid and far easier transportation was secured."

We may note at this point that Mrs. John Dixon was the first white woman who settled in the Rock River valley, in the bounds of Lee county.

About eighteen or twenty miles south, and not far from the present Lee county line, in the south part of the county, another pioneer by the well known name of "Dad Joe" Smith had located at a very early day, the date of which we cannot give definitely, but it was, however, prior to the Black Hawk war, and of sufficient length of time for him to become familiar with the Indians of the country to secure his safety during the Black Hawk campaign. Having secured the safety of his wife and children he remained at his home at "Dad Joe's Grove" and attended and gathered his crops during the entire war unmolested. He had fought in the battle of the Thames; came to this county with the first emigrants and "settled in the shadow of this grove," and commenced opening a farm. At the time of the advance of Atkinson's army he served as a guide. He also served as a spy under command of Zachary Taylor. He was an early settler, and of such long standing that he was rather looked upon as a kind of patriarch in the country, and to distinguish him from other Joe Smiths—perhaps a son bearing his father's name—he received the venerable appellation of "Dad Joe." Mr. J. K. Robinson said of him: "He was one of the good, jolly men, who had made their homes along the route of the early thoroughfare between Peoria and Galena. 'Dad Joe' had an uncommonly loud voice. It was often remarked in that day 'We knew they were all well at Dad Joe's, this morning, for we heard him calling his hogs just twenty miles away.'"

In the spring of 1832, at the settlement at Buffalo Grove, ten miles up the Galena road, were located Isaac Chambers, O. W. Kellogg, Mr. Reed, and a Mr. Bush, and their families. Mr. John K. Robinson had joined John Dixon at the ferry where he settled, and "Dad Joe" twenty miles south on the road. These were the way stations on the great thoroughfare of travel from the southern settlements to the Galena mines on the north, and were as oases in the desert to the pioneer traveler.

#### THE BLACK HAWK WAR.

The Black Hawk war broke out in 1832, when Dixon's Ferry, where the city of Dixon is now located, became the rendezvous of the United States troops and the raw levies that were raised for the defense of the frontier, as it proved to be a central position for the speedy and successful manœuvring of troops and their supplies.

"A treaty had been made in 1804 with the Sacs and Fox Indians, in which those powerful tribes ceded to the United States all their lands lying east of the Mississippi, and agreed to remove to lands west of that river. Black Hawk and other chiefs not being present when the treaty was made, refused to be bound by it." It is but just

that the noble warrior, Black Hawk, be heard respecting this treaty, and the relation of his people to the origin of the war which followed. In his account given to Antoine Leclair, United States interpreter for the Sacs and Foxes, and published in the "Life of Black Hawk," by J. B. Patterson, of Rock Island, in 1834, he said :

"One of our people killed an American and was confined in the prison at St. Louis for the offense. We held a council at our village to see what could be done for him, which determined that Quash-quà-me, Pà-she-pa-ho, Ou-che-qua-ka, and Hà-she quar-hí-qua should go down to St. Louis, see our American father, and do all they could to have our friend released by paying for the person killed, thus covering the blood and satisfying the relations of the man murdered. This was the only means with us of saving a person who had killed another, and we then thought it was the same way with the whites. The party started with the good wishes of our whole nation, hoping they would accomplish the object of their mission. The relatives of the prisoner blacked their faces and fasted, hoping the Great Spirit would take pity on them and return the husband and father to his wife and children. Quash-quà-me and party remained a long time absent. They at length returned, \* \* \* and gave to us the following account of their mission :

"On their arrival at St. Louis they met their American father and explained to him their business, and urged the release of their friend. The American chief told them he wanted land, and they had agreed to give him some on the west side of the Mississippi and some on the Illinois' side opposite the Jeffreon. When the business was all arranged they expected to have their friend released to come home with them, but about the time they were ready to start their friend was let out of prison, and he ran a short distance and was *shot dead*. This is all they could recollect of what was said or done. They had been drunk the greater part of the time they were in St. Louis.

"This is all myself or nation knew of the treaty of 1804. It has been explained to me since. I find, by that treaty, all our country east of the Mississippi and south of Jeffreon was ceded to the United States for *one thousand dollars* a year. I will leave it to the people of the United States to say whether our nation was properly represented in this treaty, or whether we received a fair compensation for the extent of country ceded by those four individuals. I could say much about this treaty but will not at this time. It has been the origin of all our difficulties."

After the treaty of peace between the United States and Great Britain, Black Hawk and his chiefs went down to St. Louis to con-



firm the treaty of peace, and "Here," says Black Hawk, "for the first time I touched the goose quill to the treaty,—not knowing, however, that by that act I consented to give away my village. Had that been explained to me I should have opposed it and never would have signed their treaty. What do we know about the laws and customs of the white people? They might buy our bodies for dissection and we would touch the goose quill to confirm it without knowing what we were doing. This was the case with myself and people in touching the goose quill the first time." Black Hawk also claimed that they did not cede their village to the government. This village was situated on the north side of Rock river, at its mouth, on the point of land between this river and the Mississippi. Their corn-fields extended up the Mississippi for two miles, where they joined the Foxes on the north. Rock Island was the summer resort for their young people, their garden which supplied them with berries and fruits, and the rapids of Rock river furnished them with the finest fish. "A good spirit had care of it, who lived in a cave in the rocks immediately under the place where the fort now stands (1834) and has often been seen by our people. He was white, with large wings like a swan's, but ten times larger. We were particular not to make much noise in that part of the island which he inhabited for fear of disturbing him; but the noise of the fort has driven him away and no doubt a *bad* spirit has taken his place."

It is not to be thought strange that those native tribes would be unwilling to leave this beautiful and rich country, the home of their fathers for more than a hundred years. And besides Black Hawk claimed, as did also Quàsh-quà-me, who conducted the treaty, that their Rock Island village had not been sold, as claimed by the government. On this they predicated their claims and all their troubles.

The whites, however, occupied their village, and Black Hawk says "they brought whisky into our village, and made our people drunk, and cheated them out of their horses, guns and traps!" It may be noted here that the first temperance crusade in this country was headed by Black Hawk, chief of the Sacs. He says: "I visited all the whites (in the village) and begged them not to sell whisky to my people. One of them continued the practice openly. I took a party of my young men, went to his house, and took out his barrel and broke in the head and turned out the whisky." He then adds: "Bad and cruel as our people were treated by the whites, not one of them was hurt or molested by any of my band. I hope this will prove that we are a peaceable people, having permitted ten men to take possession of our corn-fields, prevent us from planting corn, burn and destroy our lodges, ill-treat our women, and *beat to death*



our men without offering resistance to their barbarous cruelties. The whites were complaining at the same time that *we* were *intruding* upon *their* rights! They made themselves out the *injured* party, and *we* the intruders! and called loudly to the great war-chief to protect *their* property! How smooth must be the language of the whites when they can make right look like wrong and wrong look like right!"

This brave and proud warrior would not surrender his village until the last hour, when the United States soldiers were on the ground for the purpose of forcing him to terms. The night before the day appointed by Gen. Gaines to remove them, the chief and his people crossed the Mississippi and encamped below the mouth of Rock river. Black Hawk went to their agent and requested that a house be built for him, and a field plowed in the fall, as he desired to live retired. This being promised, he went to the trader and obtained permission to be buried in the graveyard in their old village. "I then returned," said Black Hawk, "to my people satisfied." He had not remained long in quiet retirement when in 1831 the restless chief and his band (known as the British Band of Sac Indians) crossed the river to their old homes at the mouth of Rock river, but after preparations of war were made for his extermination he negotiated a treaty and returned to the west side of the Mississippi, receiving liberal presents of goods and provisions from the government, and promised never to return without the consent of the president of the United States or the governor of Illinois.

Here he remained quietly until the following year, when discontent was created by the bad counsel of British officers on the upper Mississippi; and on April 6, 1832, he again recrossed the Mississippi with his entire band and their women and children, and soon commenced his march up the river, intending to take possession of the Kishwaukee country on the upper Rock river, claimed to have been given him by the Pottawatomies.

Black Hawk's policy was to ascend the Rock river in peace, until he had the expected reinforcements from the Ottawas, Chippewas, Pottawatomies, and Winnebagoes, from the upper Rock river and lake region, as he had been told. Ascending the river to Prophets-town, he received an order from Gen. Atkinson (White Beaver) to return or he would pursue him and drive him back. The chief refused, sending word to the general if he wanted to fight to come on, and moved on up river.

Mr. John Dixon, then proprietor of Dixon's Ferry, was advised of the approach of the Black Hawk band of Indians, and would have abandoned his home, and sought safety elsewhere, but his faith in



Johann Rudolph Wernicke



humanity was of that kind that "Hopeth all things, of all men" — even the Indians. A leading Winnebago chief, Pachinka (Crane in English), had told him that the Winnebagoes held possession of the lands through which the Sacs would have to move, and that they would not dare injure the white friends of his nation. So Father Dixon was here when the savage army passed early in May. He so arranged his family and hired help as to ascertain the force of the hostiles. This he accomplished without exciting their suspicions. His estimate gave them 600 men. The band encamped at a spring a few hundred yards above the ferry, now submerged by reason of the dam.

The war chief had not forgotten the kindness of Mrs. Dixon during the preceding winter, when he, a chief from Rock Island, and the prophet from Prophetstown, met in council with the Pottawatomies at Dixon's Ferry, when Black Hawk negotiated for the occupancy of Spotted Arms' Town near the present site of Rockford. During their stay the chiefs at the council fire were regularly invited as guests to Mrs. Dixon's table. She served them as waiter, and even sat down and ate and drank with them. Black Hawk not only reminded her of his appreciation of her kindness, but called the attention of the other chiefs to her care for them.

"On May 12 Governor Reynolds was at Dixon's Ferry, with about 900 mounted riflemen, under command of Gen. Whitesides, awaiting the arrival of Gen. Atkinson's forces of the regular army, coming up the river with army stores, provisions, and the general impediments of a moving army.

"Immediately after the arrival of the forces at Dixon's Ferry Gen. Whitesides sent a party of four men, a guide and interpreter, under command of Capt. John Dement (then state treasurer), to Shabbona's Grove, just within the borders of the present county of De Kalb, to warn the friendly Pottawatomie chief, Shabbona, who lived there upon a small reservation with his family and a few followers, not to allow Black Hawk to come upon his lands to live."

Having lost their way they were, toward the close of the second day out, approaching a grove to the northwest of Shabbona's Grove, which they were seeking, when Peter Manard, the interpreter of the party, who was familiar with Shabbona and his people, approached the grove in advance of the party expecting to meet the friendly Pottawatomies. Crossing a small stream he entered the grove, where he found an unoccupied lodge. Alighting from his pony, he was trying to strike a fire preparatory to an encampment for the night, when Capt. Dement, who was approaching the grove at another point, descried some Indians in the timber trying to conceal themselves in the



thicket; leaving his party to watch the movements of the savages, he rode down the grove to see what had become of Manard, whom he found in possession of his lodge, happily anticipating a good smoke in his efforts to strike a fire; but at the word from the captain he mounted and joined the party. The Indians soon rushed from the grove with yells and menaces of war. The scouting party fearing the presence of superior numbers galloped away over the prairie; but discovering that only two or three Indians were following them they reined up their horses when the Indians came up, laughing and pretending friendship.

From these Indians they learned that Black Hawk and his band were encamped on a stream but two miles away, and that they were going over to Mud lake to hunt. They invited the captain and his party to lodge with them for the night, promising to feast them on fresh venison. The captain declined their hospitality, preferring a long horseback ride in the night, though weary from the long travel of the day. He turned toward Shabbona's grove to mislead the red-men should they attempt to follow or intercept them, and when beyond their view the party headed toward Dixon's Ferry and rode all night, reaching Inlet grove in early morning. After halting a short time at this point they continued their march to Dixon's Ferry, and reported the result of their expedition to the commanding general.

“Just before Capt. Dement and his party returned to Dixon's Ferry from Shabbona's grove Maj. Stillman was permitted to advance up the river and spy out the hostile camp. Maj. Stillman was at the ferry when Gen. Whitesides arrived; he had command of a small battalion of green volunteers, who, in their inexperience, were eager to get a shot at an Indian. On the evening of May 15 or 16 Stillman encamped on a small stream near Kishwaukee creek, in what is now Ogle county, about thirty miles from Dixon. He was about five miles distant from Black Hawk's camp on Kishwaukee creek, but did not know it.”

Black Hawk says that at about this time “the Pottawatomic chiefs arrived at my camp. I had a dog killed, and made a feast. When it was ready I spread my medicine bags, and the chiefs began to eat. When the ceremony was about ending I received news that three or four hundred white men on horseback had been seen about eight miles off. I immediately started three young men with a white flag to meet them, and conduct them to our camp, that we might hold a council with them, and descend Rock river again.” These three men, according to Black Hawk, were captured by the whites and taken to their camp. One of them was shot, and the other two escaped to their own camp.

After Black Hawk had started the three, as above, he sent five more young men to follow after and see what the result would be.

These proceeded to a mound about a mile and a half from Stillman's camp where they displayed a flag of truce. "They were discovered by some of the men, who, without reporting to their commander, and without orders, hastily mounted and rode toward the Indians. These, not understanding this sudden movement, and apparently suspicious, commenced to retreat toward the camp of their chief. The whites dashed after them, fired and killed two of their number and captured two more, the others escaped, still pursued by the reckless volunteers. When Black Hawk and his war chief, Ne-o-pope, saw them dashing down upon their camp, their flag of truce disregarded, they raised the terrible war-whoop and prepared for the fray."

Black Hawk says, "When they came in with the news I was preparing my flags to meet the war chief. The alarm was given. Nearly all my young men were absent, about ten miles off. I started with what I had left (about forty), and had proceeded but a short distance before we saw a part of the army approaching. I immediately placed my men in front of some bushes, that we might have the first fire. They halted some distance from us, when I gave another yell, and ordered my braves to charge upon them, expecting that we would all be killed. They did charge. Every man rushed and fired, and the enemy retreated in the utmost confusion and consternation before my little but brave band of warriors. I found it useless to follow them, as they rode so fast, and I returned to my encampment with a few of my braves, about twenty-five having gone in pursuit of the enemy. I lighted my pipe, and sat down to thank the Great Spirit for what he had done for my people."

Our own historian says of the defeat, when Black Hawk met the charging volunteers, "It was now the turn of the volunteers to retreat, which they did with wonderful celerity. Supposing they were pursued by a thousand savage warriors, the flying soldiers rushed through the camp, spreading terror and consternation among their comrades. The wildest confusion ensued, there was 'mounting in hot haste'; and the efforts of the officers to rally the troops were without avail. The panic was complete; every man seemed bent upon saving his scalp, and fled, never stopping until they reached Dixon's Ferry, or some other place of safety. It is said that the first man to reach Dixon was a Kentucky lawyer, not unknown to fame in Jo Daviess county, who reported that every man in Stillman's command had been killed except himself. Nearly every man, as he came straggling back to the Ferry during the night, had a like report to make."

The narrative continues: "It is a well known fact that Stillman's men were well supplied with whiskey, and that many of them were drunk, which may account for their rash act in firing upon the white flag in utter disregard of all rules of warfare recognized, even among the Indians. On the approach of day the order was given for a forced march to the fatal field, and about eight hundred of the volunteers moved out, leaving two hundred men to guard the ferry; but the enemy had gone, the main body moving northward, and the rest scattering in small bands to avenge the death of their people upon unoffending settlers. Eleven of Stillman's men were killed. Their mutilated remains were gathered and buried, and the place is known as "Stillman's Run" to this day. It is supposed that nearly all of those who were killed were not in the first mêlée, as all but two or three of the bodies were found on the side of the creek upon which Stillman camped; they were probably unable to get to their horses before the savages dashed through their camp. Being out of provisions the pursuing army were obliged to return to Dixon's Ferry, to await the arrival of the boats. This defeat was the opening of hostilities, and justice compels the impartial historian to record that the whites were the aggressors."

Had the counsel of Captain Dement been followed, at this time a conflict and loss of valuable lives might have been averted. On the captain's return with his scouting party to Dixon's Ferry, he informed the commanding general of the situation of Black Hawk, and the friendly attitude of those of his army they had met. No blood having been shed, he thought that the chief could have been induced to return peaceably to his home in Iowa; and the account afterward given by Black Hawk indicated that the captain was correct in his judgment of the situation.

Said Black Hawk: "Never was I so much surprised in my life as I was in this attack. An army of three or four hundred, after having learned that we were suing for peace, to attempt to kill the flag-bearers that had gone, unarmed, to ask for a meeting of the war chiefs of the two contending parties to hold a council, that I might return to the west side of the Mississippi, to come forward, with a full determination to demolish the few braves I had with me, to retreat, when they had ten to one, was unaccountable to me. I sent a flag of peace to the American war chief, expecting as a matter of right, reason and justice, that our flag would be respected."

The expected provisions having reached Dixon's Ferry, the army again moved north, following the Indians to Fox river.

"The term of enlistment having expired, the volunteers demanded to be dismissed. They were mustered out May 26 or 27, and a new

call issued for volunteers. Whitesides and two or three hundred volunteers remained in arms for the protection of the settlers until the new levies could be organized. These, with several companies of regulars, made their headquarters at Dixon's Ferry. Ranging companies were formed to keep up communication between the lead mine region and more southern counties. Maj. Riley, of the United States army, converted the former residence of O. W. Kellogg, at Kellogg's Grove, thirty-seven miles northeast of Dixon, into a small, well appointed stockade, and other temporary fortifications were raised in different localities."

During this time Black Hawk was making the best possible way north to the Four Lakes, to find safety for his women and children.

"The fatal act of Stillman's men precipitated all the horrors of Indian border warfare upon the white settlements in Jo Daviess county, as it then existed, and in the adjoining portions of Michigan Territory. Nor is it certain that all the outrages were perpetrated by the "British Band." It is certain that young Pottawatomies and Winnebagoes joined Black Hawk, and, after the war suddenly closed at Bad Axe, it was ascertained that many of the murders had been committed by these Indians. Among the first results of "Stillman's defeat" was the descent of about twenty-five Indians upon an unprotected settlement at Indian creek, where they massacred fifteen men, women and children, and captured two young women, Sylvia and Rachel Hall. These girls, seventeen and fifteen years old respectively, were afterward brought in by Winnebagoes to Gratiot Grove, and were ransomed for \$2,000 in horses, wampum and trinkets. Part of the compensation agreed upon by Gen. Dodge for their ransom was paid to "Whirling Thunder," one of the Winnebago chiefs, at Dixon's Ferry.

"The atrocities perpetrated by the Indians upon the bodies of their victims aroused the vengeance of the settlers and miners, many of whom had previously felt that the Indians were not so much in fault, and had needlessly been provoked to bloodshed. Unexpected and mortifying as the beginning of this war had been, its relinquishment was not dreamed of, and every effort was made to ensure future protection. A fair wagon road was made from Dixon's Ferry to Rock Island, which was the base of supplies. Another road, but more imperfect, was made from Rock Island to Fort Koshkanong (near Madison, Wisconsin,) and to other temporary fortifications. Conforming to the inevitable, a fort was constructed on the north side of the river, consisting of two block houses within an inclosure made by a breastwork of sod and earth four and a half feet high, and abutting on the river a few rods west of the ferry. The



northeast block house was two stories high, and was so arranged as to command the north and east sides of the fort. Here Captain Palmer was stationed with one company of United States infantry to guard the ferry, thus affording a safe and speedy passage to passing troops at all times, endearing himself to citizens and soldiers alike by his gentlemanly bearing and deportment.

“On Saturday, May 19, Sergeant Fred Stahl (now a respected citizen of Galena) and four privates, with John Winters, the mail contractor, for guide, left Galena to bear dispatches to Gen. Atkinson, who had arrived at Dixon's Ferry. On the evening of that day they were ambuscaded by Indians just at the edge of Buffalo Grove, now in Ogle county. One of the party was instantly killed and the others narrowly escaped to Galena.

“May 23, Felix St. Vrain, agent for the Sacs and Foxes, bearer of dispatches, left Gen. Atkinson's headquarters, at Dixon's Ferry, accompanied by six men. At Buffalo Grove they found the body of the volunteer that had been killed a few days before, and buried it. The next day (24th) they were attacked by a party of thirty Indians, near “Kellogg's old place.” St. Vrain and three others were killed. The remaining three escaped and arrived at Galena on the morning of the 26th.

“On the 15th of June the new levies of 3,000 volunteers, in camp at Fort Wilburn, near La Salle, were formed into three brigades, under command of Gen. Atkinson. The first brigade was commanded by Gen. Alexander Posey; the second by Gen. Milton R. Alexander, and the third by Gen. James D. Henry. They moved to Dixon's Ferry a few days after.

“Capt. John Dement was elected major of an independent spy battalion, consisting of three companies of about 140 men, belonging to Gen. Posey's brigade. Maj. Dement was sent in advance of the main force to report Indian depredations that had been committed in the Bureau woods, to Col. Taylor at Dixon's Ferry. After scouring the woods he arrived at the river the evening of the second or third day. He arrived just after two companies of regulars had been driven in from an attempt to keep open the road between Galena and Dixon. Taylor met Dement as he arrived, and informed him that he had come just in time—that he had just the place for him, and directed him to swim his horses across the river in the morning and receive his orders. In Maj. Dement's command were men who had held nearly every office in the state from governor down. His men were fatigued from their long ride and expected a short rest when they arrived at the river. Dement, although ready to do his duty without flinching, was desirous of not appearing anxious to get his men prema-

turely into a fight, when the regulars could not hold their own, and a large force of volunteers were so soon to arrive; he therefore requested Col. Taylor, when he should deliver him his orders, to read them to his men, that they might know that he (Dement) was not responsible for the movement. As they were ready to start, Taylor read the orders, and then addressed the men in a very abrupt manner, alluding to the unfortunate propensity of the Illinois militia for running away, and said that if they wished to sacrifice the reputation of the militia, already so poor, they had an opportunity to do so.

“Maj. Dement replied that the discontent Col. Taylor alluded to was greatly exaggerated, and its cause by no means understood, and allusion to the courage of the soldiers, unjust and entirely uncalled for from men who, with the experience of the regular army would entrench themselves behind walls and send to the front men who had never seen service. Then telling his men that none need obey his orders to march that didn't wish to go, he moved off, and all, save one man, followed, and he came up after they had gone a short distance. By evening of the second day they arrived at the stockade at Kellogg's Grove, and encamped. In the morning, learning that an Indian trail had been seen four or five miles from the grove where they were encamped, the major called for twenty-five volunteers to go and investigate. These were immediately forthcoming, and among them were the only captains he had in his command. These men started just before sunrise, leaving Maj. Dement giving instructions to those who remained, and on reaching the edge of the grove they discovered seven Indians a few hundred yards on the prairie. The cry of “Indians!” was raised, when the men in the grove sprang to their horses in confusion, and by the time Maj. Dement had brought them to order and finished his instructions, the volunteers were a mile out on the prairie in pursuit. Being splendidly mounted Maj. Dement rapidly overtook a number of them, but several were too far in advance; the Indians making for another grove some three miles away, where Dement was convinced a large number of Indians lay concealed. Finding it was impossible to overtake some five or six who were in advance, on arriving at a ridge some 400 yards from the grove to which the Indians were running, he halted the remainder of his men and formed line. As he feared, on nearing the grove those in advance were received with a warm fire, which killed two and wounded a third, and with hideous yells a large body of Indians poured from the grove, extending to the right and left, to outflank the little band, and rapidly approached. They were all mounted, stripped to the skin, and painted for battle. As the Indians reached the bodies of the dead soldiers a large number sur-

rounded them, clubbing and striking the lifeless remains. A volley from the rifles of Maj. Dement's men killed two or three at this point, but by the time two or three men had reached the ridge, the Indians were close upon them, and were on both flanks. Then came an exciting race for the grove, Indians yelling, bullets flying, and woe to the man whose horse stumbled or gave out!

"Here occurred an unfortunate circumstance: Three men whose horses had strayed during the night had, early in the morning, gone out in search of them, and were now caught on one of the flanks. The Indians swept over them, killing every one.

"The men in the grove hearing the firing and yelling, instead of remaining in ambush as they had been instructed, mounted in hot haste and started to the rescue of their comrades. On discovering the superior force of the Indians, they fell back again and reached the grove with 970 men, and almost neck and neck with the Indians, sprang from their horses and occupied the log house and barn there situated. On the least exposed side of the house was a work-bench; over this Dement threw his bridle rein, and most of the horses instinctively huddled together at this house as if conscious of danger. As the Indians swarmed into the grove and covered themselves, an ominous stillness for some minutes prevailed, which was soon broken by the sharp crack! crack! of many rifles. The best marksmen and best rifles were placed at the port-holes and a lively fire was kept up by the little garrison. The Indians finding they made no impression turned their attention to shooting the horses, some twenty-five of which they killed. It was unpleasant to the volunteers, who rode their own horses, to hear the crack of the rifle and the heavy thud of the bullet and see some favorite horse spring as the ball struck it. After a sharp contest of an hour or two, the Indians withdrew, leaving nine dead and losing probably several others killed and wounded. Reinforcements were sent for the relief of Dement from Dixon's Ferry, but too late to assist him or follow the retreating body of Indians.

"It is a remarkable fact that this was the first instance during this war where the Indians were defeated and the position of the volunteers held until reinforcements came up. Previous to this the detachments of troops were always driven back to the main army by the overwhelming numbers of Indians. After this fight the Indians would not come to open battle of their own volition with the whites, and the only fights that occurred were when the soldiers overtook the Indians in their retreat; which style of warfare continued until hostilities ceased with Black Hawk's surrender in August."

Black Hawk described the battle in which he claimed to have two

hundred warriors in the following manner: "We started in a direction toward sunrise. After marching a considerable time I discovered some white men coming toward us. I told my braves that we would get into the woods and kill them when they approached. We concealed ourselves until they came near enough and then commenced yelling and firing and made a rush upon them. About this time their chief, with a party of men, rushed up to rescue the men we had fired upon. In a little while they commenced retreating and left their chief and a few braves who seemed willing and anxious to fight. They acted like *braves*, but were forced to give way when I rushed upon them with my braves. In a short time the chief returned with a larger party. He seemed determined to fight and anxious for a battle. When he came near enough I raised the yell and firing commenced on both sides. The chief, who seemed to be a small man, addressed his warriors in a loud voice, but they soon retreated, leaving him and a few braves on the battle-field. A great number of my warriors pursued the retreating party and killed a number of their horses as they ran. The chief and his few braves were unwilling to leave the field. I ordered my braves to rush upon them, and had the mortification of seeing two of my chiefs killed before the enemy retreated. This young chief, Col. Dement, deserves great praise for his courage and bravery. During the attack we killed several men and about forty horses, and lost two young chiefs and seven warriors."

Gen. Atkinson commenced his slow and cautious march up the river about the 25th of June, and finally reached lake Koshkanong, Wisconsin, where he was joined by Gen. Alexander's brigade, and then continued his march to White river, or Whitewater, where he was joined by Posey's brigade and Maj. Dodge. Gen. Alexander, Gen. Henry and Maj. Dodge were sent to Fort Winnebago for supplies. Here they heard that Black Hawk was making his way toward the Wisconsin river, and, disobeying orders, Henry and Dodge started in pursuit (Gen. Alexander and his brigade returned to Gen. Atkinson), struck the broad fresh trail of the Indians, and followed them with tireless energy. Black Hawk was overtaken at the Wisconsin river, and his braves offered battle to enable the women and children to cross the river. The battle of Wisconsin Heights was fought on July 22, 1832, at which the Indians were badly whipped. Skirmishing commenced a little after noon, but the heaviest fighting was about sunset. About ten o'clock the men bivouacked for rest on their arms.

The next morning not an Indian remained on the east side of the Wisconsin. Gen. Henry pushed back for supplies, and Gen. Atkinson's forces coming up, the pursuit was renewed and the battle of



Bad Axe was fought August 2, 1832. This terminated the war, and Black Hawk's surrender, subsequent visit to Washington, and return to his people in Iowa, are events familiar to the reader. Black Hawk claimed: "In this skirmish with fifty braves I defended and accomplished my passage over the Onisconsin (Wisconsin) with a loss of only six men, though opposed by a host of mounted militia."

At the close of the war the United States troops that had not previously been discharged were mustered out at Dixon's Ferry. The pack horses from all the territory between Dixon and the Wisconsin river, the mining region and the scene of Black Hawk's defeat were gathered and corraled here, preparatory to being driven farther south for sale in more densely settled portions of the state. The wounded and sick soldiers were brought here and carefully nursed and cared for.

By the terms of Gen. Scott's treaty at Rock Island the Winnebago Indians were to have 40,000 rations of bacon and flour, as a remuneration for the sufferings they had endured during the summer by the occupation of their hunting grounds. The rations for the Rock river band of that nation were moved here in boats from Rock Island, and Father Dixon appointed to distribute it to the Indians at his discretion.

It is an interesting circumstance that at this remote outpost of civilization there met a number of men since famous or infamous in their country's service: Gen. Scott, Col. Zachary Taylor, subsequently president of the United States; Gov. Reynolds, and Gen. Atkinson; Lieut. Robert Anderson, the defender of Fort Sumter; Maj. John Dement, now of Dixon; private Abraham Lincoln, afterward president of the United States during the rebellion; and Lieut. Jeff. Davis, afterward the leader of the rebellion. These were all here in their country's service.

When Maj. Anderson visited Washington after the evacuation of Fort Sumter, during a conversation the president said: "Major, do you remember of ever meeting me before?" "No," replied Anderson, "I have no recollection of ever having that pleasure." "My memory is better than yours," said Lincoln, "You mustered me into the U. S. service as a high private of the Illinois volunteers at Dixon's Ferry in the Black Hawk war."

During this war, and, in fact, for years after, Father Dixon's log house was a "house of call" for the traveler and the wandering tribes of red-men. There might have been seen the raw-boned Hoosier bound for the lead mines, yellow-breeched Sucker with his boat-shaped "prairie schooner," with four, five or six yoke of oxen; the tramping hunter, the Pottawatomie, the cunning Winnebago, or

the treacherous Sioux ; all these were welcomed under the hospitable roof of the white-haired pioneer, whom the Indians called Na-chusa—the white-haired—and were made to keep the peace with one another about the friendly fireside of him whom both the red and the white man loved and respected.

Early in the spring of 1833 the Winnebago Indians became restive, and many families again abandoned the homes to which they had so recently returned. Father Dixon's old counselor could not talk so assuring of his own tribe as in 1832. He frankly admitted the trouble that was likely to follow, and faithfully said that the temper of his people was too uncertain for assured peace. The peaceful family in the old log house was broken up, and mother Dixon, with the children, went to Peoria county, and remained there until the war-cloud passed over. The last of the Indians left in 1836.

During the Black Hawk war Father Dixon had the contract for supplying the army with beef from the time the Wisconsin river was crossed until the final battle of the Bad Axe river. His place on the march was in the rear of the army, and many times he was left so far behind as to be out of supporting distance. It so happened on the march, that at one time midnight was passed before he came to camp. He was hailed by the sentinel with the snap of the lock of the gun in the sentinel's hands and the words: "Who comes there?" Father Dixon replied: "Major of the Steer Battalion." The soldier gave the order: "Major of the Steer Battalion, march in." This sally of wit on both sides was the foundation of Father Dixon's military title. Another time he had been off the trail hunting one of his beeves, and on again returning to the trail he suddenly found himself face to face with two Indians, who were as much astonished at the meeting as he was. It was no time for ceremony. All were armed ; Father Dixon lowered his gun and, walking about five rods, gave his hand to the nearest savage, saluting him in Winnebago. The Indian replied in Winnebago. Father Dixon and both the Indians were alike overjoyed at this unexpected good fortune—Father Dixon, that he was permitted to save his scalp for another day ; the Indians, that they had found some one understanding their own language, under whose influence they could safely be introduced to Gen. Atkinson, for whom they had important dispatches. Their life was endangered to be seen by a soldier, and they felt their peril and were in serious embarrassment about how to approach the army.

*The Black Hawk Canoe.*—On the surrender of Black Hawk at the battle of Bad Axe his canoe was captured and afterward broken into pieces and carried off as relics. One fragment of black walnut timber fell into the hands of Mr. Geo. J. Anderson, of Dixon, who

worked it into three walking-sticks, and on the occasion of an old settlers' reunion at Dixon, one, which had been mounted with a golden head, was publicly presented to Col. John Dement as a memento of his conflict in battle with the brave warrior during the Black Hawk war. The presentation was made by Dr. Oliver Everett, of Dixon. It was a complete surprise to Col. Dement, and awakened emotions through vivid recollections of the scenes of early military life. Mr. Anderson holds in possession one of the three canes, for which he has refused the liberal sum of ten dollars, although it is unfinished and unmounted with gold or silver.

#### AFTER THE BLACK HAWK WAR.

Peace and quiet were soon restored at Dixon's Ferry, and there were signs of returning travel and consequent prosperity.

The first notion store was opened in 1833, in the block-house which stood on the north side of the river, by a Mr. Martin, "where," says a pioneer writer, "the prime necessities of life were sold: such as pipes, tobacco, tea, coffee and sugar were sold to meet the wants of advancing civilization. Life's luxuries,—shoes, boots and clothes,—were not yet so imperative."

In the winter of 1833 and 1834 a school was opened in the house partly built by Ogee and finished by Mr. Dixon. This was the first house erected at the Ferry, and this the first school opened in the bounds of Lee county. The pioneer writer, in the History of Dixon, says of this school: "Unpretentiously it was the pioneer of the more costly school edifices of our town. Its teacher and only one of its scholars survive to live in memory of its feeble infancy. There are structures where better facilities can be had for a sound education, but none are found where a more genuine good will prevails than existed in that old log house."

Mr. John Dixon having secured under the pre-emption laws the northeast quarter of section 5, township 21, range 9 east, of 4th principal meridian, he laid out the first plat of the present city of Dixon as early as 1834 or 1835; a Mr. Bennett, from Galena, making the survey. The second house built at Dixon's Ferry was on the south side of the river, and was built by James Dixon, back of where the Exchange building now stands. It was a log cabin about sixteen feet square, with a small "lean-to" built against the east side of the house used as the village post office, where Mr. John Dixon distributed the mail to his neighbors. It is stated by old citizens that this house and the old block-house on the north side of the river disappeared about 1855. The foundation of the latter has just been exposed by the rushing of high waters in the Rock river at this

writing, April 1881. After the close of the war the Indians lingered in the vicinity of Lee county until 1836, when the last wandering tribes of the red-men disappeared.

John K. Robinson, who came to Dixon's Ferry in May 1832, and made his home with Mr. J. Dixon, and who now resides at Mendota, this state, writes: "In 1833, the last week of December, Zachariah Malugin, with myself as his only assistant, built the first house in Lee county, outside of Dixon, at the grove that still bears his name. There was no other settlement made in Lee county that year. A few months later the families of Gilmore and Christance came to Malugin's Grove in the spring of 1835.

In 1833 and 1834 a settlement began in the southern part of the county, in what is now known as East Grove township. Of this neighborhood were Joseph Smith, H. W. Bogardus, Charles Falvey, and F. Anderson, who settled in that early day, built their cabins, and commenced opening up farms for their future homes.

About this time improvements were opened at Sugar Grove, now in Palmyra township, in the northwest part of the county, where, in April 1834, Isaac Morgan and his sons, Harvey and John, commenced the first improvements in that part of the county, and they were joined by a number of families the autumn of the same year, among whom may be mentioned Mr. Wright, Mr. Tomlin, Capt. Oliver Hubbard, and John H. Page. In 1834 Stephen Fellows, with a family of eight, Michael, Simon, Samuel, William, Alfred, George, Albion, and Stephen. Absalom Fender, with a large family, came in 1835, and also W. W. Bethea. To these were soon added C. B. Anthana, Anson Thummel, Geo. L. Herrick, Jack Keplinger, Enoch and Noah Thomas with their father, Nathan Morehouse, two brothers, Sandy and Elkanah Bush, and Martin Richardson. These families, with others who are worthy of note, but whose names will appear in the chapter on Palmyra, soon attracted attention to the fertile lands and beautiful groves of the northwest neighborhood, and others followed soon to swell the number of the new settlement.

In May, 1834, Adolphus Bliss commenced a settlement at Inlet Grove, to which was added that summer or autumn Ozra Wright and two or three others. About this time Paw Paw Grove attracted the attention of Charles Morgan, J. Alcott and David A. Town, first settlers in Wyoming township. Mr. Harris, the father of Benjamin Harris, who came with his father and brother and a large train of relatives, settled at this grove. These were followed by a Mr. Gillett and Levi Kelso, Esq., who settled at the north side of the grove. During this time, when settlements were springing up like magic in different parts of the county, the



settlement at Dixon's Ferry was by no means neglected, but it being the center of attraction of a large scope of country, because of the United States mail and store supplies reached at this place, there were additions made to the community. In the summer of 1834 a Mr. Bush, brother-in-law of Judge Logan, lately deceased in Chicago, opened a farm below Dixon on the north side of the river, now owned by J. T. Lawrence. The same summer John K. Robinson, now of Mendota, opened a farm on the north side of the river two miles below Dixon, and was joined afterward by two sons of John Dixon. This farm has been since known as the Graham farm.

Probably the third house erected on the south side of the river in Dixon was by Judge Wilkinson, on the corner of Water and Galena streets, and was built near the time James P. Dixon erected his house, mentioned above. Judge Wilkinson purchased the Kirkpatrick place.

In Dixon, as in all places of central interest, the spirit of competition was early manifested. The future of the locality seemed to be impressed upon the minds of some of the most enterprising citizens, and they began to cast about to best establish themselves for the incoming tide. Mr. Bush, below Dixon, established a ferry across the river opposite his farm. A Mr. Kirkpatrick, who settled one and a quarter miles below Dixon, attempted to start a town on his premises called Burlington, but stakes and a euphonious name will not build a city any more than an act of congress, recognizing the Rock river as a navigable stream, will send the great steamers up her channel without legislating a greater supply of water to float the craft with her cargo; so the enterprise, laudable as it may have been, failed, as did also the ferries above mentioned.

"In the autumn of 1834," says Mr. J. K. Robinson, "Mr. Hollingshead made arrangements for the erection of a log house southeast of Grand Detour, which was built in January 1835." Mr. Hollingshead, not finding the country congenial to his tastes, returned to Kentucky. Cyrus Chamberlin, Esq., who came to this vicinity in 1835, purchased this farm, on which he lived, occupying the position of county commissioner for a number of years until his death, which he met in a ripe old age.

In the winter of 1834 Grand Detour was taken by Leonard Andruss and W. A. House, where for many years the former ran a plow factory in connection with Mr. Deere, now of Moline.

In 1835 Judge Wikinson built a saw-mill at the foot of Peoria street. Mr. Talmage, and other mechanics from Buffalo, New York, came to Dixon to perform the work. It seems that this mill, however, was run but a short time by Messrs. Huff & Thompson, and

converted into a distillery and vinegar factory. This was the first saw-mill in the bounds of Lee county, and it is to be regretted that it so soon met a sad fate. In the same year Smith Gilbraith also bought in Dixon, and figured largely in the public affairs of the town until his death.

In the spring of this year, 1835, Mr. Joseph Crawford arrived in Dixon, where he still resides, having served as first surveyor in Ogle county, which then embraced Lee, and afterward was first surveyor in Lee county. Mr. Crawford cultivated a farm near the Grand Detour. The Messrs. Cutshaws arrived in Dixon the same year, and were Dixon's first carpenters. During the previous year, 1834, the township of Dixon was surveyed by the government, although the citizens were not prepared to effect an organization for some years later. About this time, as before stated, Dixon's Ferry was surveyed and platted for the first time, and will be more particularly noted in the chapter on the city of Dixon. In prospect of the growing town, and for the accommodation of the traveling public, the first house built by Ogee and Mr. Dixon was converted into a tavern in 1835, and in the early part of 1836 Messrs. Chapman and Hamilton opened a store in the "block" part of this building. Dixon could now boast of a post-office, store, and a house of public entertainment. It was about this time that Mr. John Dixon removed to his farm, which was situated a little southeast of where the Northwestern depot now stands. During 1835 Mr. Hamilton, above mentioned, erected the first frame house built in the town. This residence stood opposite the house of James P. Dixon.

"Other improvements in the vicinity of Dixon were made as early as 1835. Dr. Forest, from Kentucky, opened the Woodford farm. George A. Martin commenced improvements on the Truman farm. Mr. E. W. Covell was building up on the north side of the river, and Caleb Talmage was improving a farm about one mile south of Dixon. Dr. Forest had erected a log house on the corner of Water and Ottawa streets, and John Wilson had erected a blacksmith shop on Main street. On September 3, 1836, Dr. Oliver Everett came to Dixon, where he still resides as one of the oldest citizens of the city."

About this time Mr. Badger, then an aged gentleman, located with several sons near the present city of Amboy, and was soon followed by Benjamin Wasson, L. C. Sawyer, Asa Searls, Joseph Doane, and John Dexter. The same year Mr. Wily settled in Franklin Grove, and became one of the contestants of an early claim trouble, which was adjusted by arbitration, Mr. John Dixon and two others serving as arbitrators in the case.

Other families were being added to the little settlements begun in

other parts of the county. John Gilmore settled in Brooklyn township, and R. Town, B. Harris, and J. Alcott in Wyoming.

In the autumn of 1836 the village then consisted of the "old mansion," the original home of Mr. John Dixon; James P. Dixon's house before described; a small frame building opposite Mr. James Dixon's, built by Mr. Hamilton the previous year; also on the opposite side of the street from this, and a little east, stood a small building which had been erected and occupied by John Wilson, an old bachelor, who occupied a small addition to the smith shop as his residence. In 1837 the latter was finished above, floor laid, and walls plastered, after which it was occupied as a courthouse. The first court of Ogle county, which at that time embraced Lee, was held in this building. It was afterward occupied by the engineer corps of internal improvements.

In the winter of 1836 and 1837 Peter McKinney and H. Thompson opened a new hotel, called the Western Hotel, which is now the northern part of the Huntley House. These gentlemen had charge at the same time of the "Tavern" in Dixon's original log house.

In the month of December of this year the original county of Ogle was organized, then including the present territory of Lee county. Referring to the poll list, there were but two hundred votes cast, although it was claimed to be a hotly contested election; and all legal voters of six months residence were entitled to a vote. \*

Up to 1836 the wandering tribes of Indians still lingered in the vicinity of Lee county, but during this year they bid adieu to their former hunting grounds and the graves of their fathers, and turning westward they sought a retreat from the advancing civilization of the white man, beyond the surging waters of the Mississippi. Their removal gave assurance of safety to the homes and families of the pioneers. This change was the signal for the advance of the pioneer corps from Kentucky and Tennessee, who laid off claims by driving stakes, turning a furrow, or beginning a cabin house. By the autumn of 1837 the claims covered all the prairie lands skirting the timber. The holders of this land secured their title to the same from the government under the pre-emption laws. These claims had to be respected, as the pioneer settlements were a "law unto themselves," in mutually protecting each others' interests. The writer has been told of a stranger coming forward to bid in lands that had been covered with a previous claim, when a number of pioneers tied him to a tree and leveled their rifles at him, when he recalled his bid, and on being released he withdrew, leaving the claimants to secure their lands from the government without further competition.



*Abraham Powers*





In 1837 a claim association was formed for the protection of members in their "reasonable claims made according to the customs of the country." The following list of names shows the citizens who became original members in 1837 and 1838: Samuel C. McClure, Hugh Moor, Samuel Anthony, John H. Champlin, James Moor, A. Menten, S. N. Anthony, Henry Moon, Cyrus Chamberlin, William G. Elder, Josiah H. Moores, J. D. Pratt, Robert Murry, Edwin Hine, I. S. Boardman, jr., J. B. Dills, Alonso Dickerman, John Richards, Caleb Tallmage, Charles Franks, Smith Gilbraith, Oliver Everett, Joseph Crawford, Timothy L. Miner, Samuel M. Bowman, James Kent, Moses Crumby, Major Chamberlin, Daniel Koons, Nehemiah Hutton, James M. Santee, William P. Burroughs, Thomas S. Bunner, Charles F. Hubbard, John Carr (by C. F. Hubbard), William Graham (by C. F. Hubbard), Edward Brandon, G. Metzlar, J. Caldwell, J. Young, James P. Dixon, John Dixon, J. Murphy, James Evans (by John Dixon his agent), James W. Stephenson (by S. Gilbraith), John W. Dixon, Joseph Courtright, B. B. Brown, Samuel Johnston, Jessee Bowman, James Hawley, Thomas McCabe, W. C. Bostwick (by his agent John Dixon), John Wilson, John Brandon, J. W. Hamilton, Ward Rathbone, Daniel O'Brien, Stephen Fuller, and Jessee P. Baily.

As soon as settlements were established along the main thoroughfares stage lines were opened and coaches were run regularly on the more important routes. A main line was established between this point and Galena. There were other lines centering at Dixon and connecting with the main line to the Galena mines, as follows: The Naperville and Chicago line; the Troy Grove and Ottawa, and the Windsor, Princeton and Peoria line. Dixon was the great transfer station on the stage lines that traversed the country then as the railroads do now. In the early settlement of the country "every dwelling house," says a writer, "was a place of entertainment, and the hospitable dwellers of the then hastily erected houses, most of which were of logs, were always ready to furnish the weary traveler with the best that the country afforded." But as the travel through this country increased it became necessary that Dixon should be provided with more extensive accommodations than private dwellings could give; and in the latter part of 1836 and the first of 1837 the Western Hotel was built, and during the same year the Rock River House was erected by Messrs. Crowell and Wilson. This was afterward known as the Phœnix.

In this year, 1837, S. M. Bowman and Isaac S. Boardman opened the first dry-goods store in Dixon, on the corner of River and Galena streets. Others had conducted a general notion trade before this,

which we have before mentioned in their proper places; but of a general dry-goods stock this firm was the pioneer of Lee county.

In 1837 the number of families had increased in the different settlements of Lee county. There were thirteen additions in Dixon, besides others in the vicinity. In Wyoming, Charles Morgan, J. D. Rogers, and others; in Amboy, A. B. Searls and L. D. Wason increased the number in their several neighborhoods.

About this time, or in 1836, William Guthrie made claim on section 35 in Viola township; and Evens Adrian, of Ireland, followed in the same township, and now owns a farm of eleven hundred acres of land.

Attention was now being given to education in the older settlements. Dixon built the first school-house in 1837, and a school opened in the following year. This building was a small one-story frame structure, erected at the expense of the friends of the cause, detailed in the chapter on educational matters. This was the only public building in the town until 1840, and served the purpose of court-house, meeting-house, town-hall, and school-house.

The first death recorded in Dixon was in the autumn of 1836. A man by the name of Lafferty died in the building on the corner of Water and Galena streets, and was the first interment in the cemetery.

The following extract from an old day-book used by Mr. John Dixon during his dealings with the Indians may be of interest to the reader, showing the manner of traffic with those people:

*Chief Crane, —Pachuska.*

Two shirts,	6
Tobacco,	1
Two combs,	2
Paint,	2
Corn,	2
Powder, .	3
Salt,	1
Spear,	6
New axe for old one,	2
Mending axe,	1
One pair red leggins,	5

*Grey Head Pottowatamie.*

Gun worm,	1
Steel on axe,	2
Making spear out of file,	2
Bushing gun,	1
Mending hoe,	1
Blanket,	25
Squaw axe,	2
Shirt,	4
Looking glass,	2
Flints,	1
Two knives,	3

It is interesting to glance over the curious names and descriptions of some of the Indians trading with Father Dixon a half-century ago. Among his customers were: "Old Blue Coat," "Squirrel Checks," "Yellow Man," the old "blind man's son," "Sour Head Ox," "Doctor's Husband," "Raw Bone Black Face," "Limpv."

“Consumption,” “Blinky,” “Daddy Walker,” “Man that has a sick wife,” “Old Grey Head’s fat son,” “Canoe Thief,” “Old White Head Pottawatomie’s son.”

## THE ORGANIZATION OF LEE COUNTY.

Previous to 1836 Jo Daviess county embraced all the northwest part of the state, including the present territory of Lee, which was embraced in what was called the Rock River precinct of Jo Daviess county, and in the fall of 1836 the polls were opened for the presidential election in that precinct in Dixon.

In December, 1836, Ogle county was organized; and the first court convened in the county was held in Dixon, September 1837. Judge Stone was on the bench, and Thomas Ford, who was afterward chosen by the people governor of the state, acted as district attorney by appointment of the judge.

On the 27th of February, 1839, the act of the general assembly creating Lee county was approved by the official authority of the governor of Illinois, and it became a law recognizing Lee as one of the counties of the commonwealth. Messrs. D. G. Salisbury, E. H. Nichols and L. G. Butler were appointed commissioners to locate the county-seat, and in the prosecution of the duties imposed to their trust these gentlemen, on the 31st of May 1839, selected Dixon as the capital of the new county.

The following piece of ingenuity, called in an early day “sharp practice,” may be of interest: In 1839, when the state legislature was in session in Vandalia, then the capital of the state, Mr. F. R. Dutcher, now of Amboy, but then residing in Dixon, and Mr. Smith Gilbraith visited Vandalia to present a petition to the general assembly praying for the creation of the county of Lee, the name being suggested by Mr. Dutcher in honor of Gen. Lee, who in after years became notorious as the defender of the Confederate cause and surrendered to Gen. U. S. Grant at the close of the rebellion. On arriving at Vandalia Messrs. Dutcher and Gilbraith found a Mr. Boague in advance of them with a remonstrance from Buffalo Grove and Grand Detour. The latter gentleman, however, had not his complete list of names to his remonstrance, and was anxiously looking for other papers from home that would give him a large majority of remonstrators over the Dixon petitioners. The Dixon gentlemen knew if Mr. Boague got in the full list of signatures to his remonstrance that their cause would be defeated; and to forestall this Mr. Gilbraith perpetrated a very shrewd piece of business, by presenting himself at the post-office on the arrival of the mail from the north and inquiring of the postman, “anything for Boague?” A package was



handed over, which went down into the great-coat pocket, and Mr. Boague anxiously looked for the desired document in vain. And what made the situation more serious was that there was not sufficient time to send back to his constituents for a duplicate list of remonstrators before the adjournment of the legislature. Messrs. Dutcher and Gilbraith were not satisfied with this piece of irregularity to secure their purpose, but knowing Mr. Boague to be an abolitionist orator, they encouraged the project of that gentleman to deliver an abolition speech on a certain evening, to which the members of the legislature were invited. The effect was, as designed, to alienate the sympathies of the members of the general assembly from the orator and his cause. This gave the situation to the petitioners, who obtained the object for which they prayed.

Mr. Dutcher was not only one of the prime movers in securing the creation of the county of Lee, but suggested the name which it bears. He came to Dixon on May 9, 1838, armed with a letter of introduction from Judge Massey, of New York, to Stephen A. Douglas, of Illinois, and on reaching Vandalia he inquired for Mr. Douglas. Douglas was pointed out to him, who was in the playful act of trying, though a very small man, to climb a very tall Kentuckian who was standing in the hall of the state house. Mr. Dutcher was appointed postmaster in Dixon in 1839, and in the same year was elected magistrate, in which office he served until 1846. In 1840 he rode over the entire county of Lee on horseback and took the census for that year, which enumeration amounted to 2035.

The first election of county officers was held on the first Monday in August of the same year, which resulted in the election of the following persons: county commissioners, Charles F. Ingals, Nathan R. Whitney, and James P. Dixon; Isaac Boardman, clerk of commissioners' court; Aaron Wakely, sheriff; Joseph Crawford, county surveyor; H. Morgan, probate justice; G. W. Chase, recorder. The commissioners' court conducted the affairs of the county, including that which is now done by the townships. The county commissioners held their first session in the Dixon school-house on September 13, 1839, for the purpose of organizing said county, and were duly qualified by administering the proper oath of office to each other; after which Isaac S. Boardman, jr., gave approved bonds and took the oath of office as required by law. The court proceeded to determine the terms of their respective offices by lot, which resulted in three years' service to Charles F. Ingles and one year's term to Nathan Whitney. There being but two members elect present, the court adjourned to meet on the following Monday, at which time James P. Dixon presented his certificate of election and took the

oath of office as a member of the court. His term of office was determined to be two years. They having provided that the term of commissioners should be for three years, it was determined as above that two should vacate the office before the expiration of the legal term, that thereafter one might be elected annually.

At this session the court divided the county into six election precincts, and appointed judges of elections for the several divisions: Gap Grove precinct, west of the river in the northwest corner of the county; election to be held at the house of William Martin; judges of election were Thomas J. Harris, William Morelin, and William J. Johnson. Dixon precinct, embracing the present townships of Dixon and Nelson, with a portion of South Dixon, and northeast Nachusa. The place of elections was the Dixon school-house; judges of election were James Sairtu, Samuel M. Brown and Thomas McCabe. Franklin precinct, which embraced what is now four townships — Nachusa, China, Ashton, and Bradford — held elections at the house of Jeremiah Whipple; judges of election being Cyrus Chambers, Jeremiah Whipple, and Daniel Cooper. The Winnebago precinct embraced the territory of six present townships, Hamilton, East Grove, May, Harmon, Marion, and the south half of South Dixon; the election to be held at the house of David Welty; judges of election, David Welty, Henry W. Bogardner, and Nathan Brooks. Inlet precinct embraced the three townships of Amboy, Lee Centre, and Sublette; elections to be held at the house of Benjamin Whitaker; judges of election were Daniel M. Dewey, Daniel Frost, and Asa B. Searls. Winnebago precinct embraced all of Lee county east of the third meridian, including six present townships. Elections held at Malugin's school-house; judges of elections were David A. Town, Zachariah Malugin and J. K. Robinson.

The clerk of the commissioners' court was instructed to procure a seat for the court as soon as convenient for him to comply with said order. The court issued treasury certificates for the first time in favor of the several members of the court.

The commissioners' court met in special session, October 2, 1839; at which time a county election was ordered, to be held in the several precincts of the county, for the purpose of electing two justices of the peace, and two constables in each precinct respectively. At the same session the court ordered that the clerk give public notice that sealed proposals would be accepted at the December term of the court for the building of a stone court-house on the public square in Dixon. The court subsequently received proposals for building the court-house in brick, and also for the building of a county jail. The court awarded the building of the court-house, per bid, to

Samuel M. Bowman, and the building of the jail was awarded to Zenos Aplington and G. G. Holbrook. The court-house was to be built for the consideration of \$6,800, in accordance with the bid submitted; the commissioners contracting to pay an additional sum for work not before specified. The jail was to be built for \$1,495.

On March 7, 1840, John Morse was appointed first assessor for the county, and at the same term of the court the county was divided into sixteen road districts, and the following gentlemen were appointed road supervisors in their respective districts: District No. 1, John Morse; No. 2, William W. Bethea; No. 3, S. A. Mason; No. 4, Lewis Davis; No. 5, Solomon Shelhammer; No. 6, William Seward; No. 7, James Hawley; No. 8, — Scott; No. 9, Otis Timothy; No. 10, Charles S. Badger; No. 11, Charles Stark; No. 12, Johnathan Peterson; No. 13, Curtis T. Bridgman; No. 14, Henry W. Chocland; No. 15, Abraham V. Christiance; No. 16, John Sims.

The following list gives the names of the first county officers: county commissioners, C. F. Ingals, Nathan Whitney, and J. P. Dixon, elected in 1839; county judge, H. Morgan, elected in same year; county clerk and recorder, G. W. Chase, in 1839; county recorder, M. Fellows; county treasurer, John Morse; sheriff, A. Wakely; superintendent of schools, E. R. Mason; county surveyor, Joseph Crawford, from 1839 to 1844; coroner, Samuel Johnson, from 1839 to 1841; circuit judge, Daniel Stone, in 1840.

The first term of the circuit court convened in the Dixon school-house on the third Monday in April, 1840. Judge Stone, of Galena, presided. The members of the first grand jury had been summoned on the third of the month to appear at the opening of the court, as above, and consisted of the following citizens: William Martin, Noah Beede, Reuben Eastwood, John H. Page, Oscar F. Ayres, Elijah Bowman, John Brown, Thomas McCabe, Cyrus Chamberlin, Cyrus R. Miner, Erastus De Wolf, David H. Birdsall, George E. Haskell, Daniel M. Dewey, David Baird, James Bain, Joseph F. Abbott, Peter T. Scott, Nathan B. Meek, John Willson, Zachariah Malugin, John K. Robinson, and Jacob Kiplinger.

At the same time and for the same session of the circuit court a petit jury was paneled, consisting of the following persons: Oliver Hubbard, Simon Fellows, James M. Johnson, Benjamin H. Steward, William F. Bradshaw, Hiram Parks, Jeremiah Murphy, Josiah Mooer, Charles Edson, Joseph Crawford, Samuel McClure, John Chamberlain, Edward Morgan, Amos Hussey, Daniel Frost, John Done, Richard F. Adams, Sylvanus Peterson, Asa B. Searls, R. B. Alben, William Guthrie, John Gilmore, jr., David Welty, and

James S. Ball. The above lists may have been changed some from the above footing by relieving some and substituting others. We may notice in this connection that there has never been a district court organized in this county up to the present writing (1881), the circuit court holding jurisdiction over the criminal code.

The legal officers present at the organization given above were as follows: The Hon. Dan Stone, judge; Aaron Waklee, sheriff; Shelton L. Hall, circuit attorney, and George W. Chase, clerk. After considering the bonds and securities of the constable, sheriff, and coroner, the court proceeded with regular business.

The first appeal case tried in the circuit court was at its first sitting in 1840, involving rights of property, *Smith Gilbraith vs. Buckner J. Morris*. The first case of appeal from the justice court was in a case of fine for an assault and battery. The fine, however, being reduced from \$27 to \$20, it was paid without further litigation.

In March, 1840, the boundaries of the road districts were changed, and their number increased to forty-two.

The first collector for Lee county was David Tripp, who received his appointment in June, 1840; and at that time Richard F. Adams was appointed to take the first census of the county.

In the year of 1840 the court-house was built according to the contracts noted above, at the cost of \$7,610, and 80 acres of land; the former donated by the citizens of Dixon and the latter by the founder of the city, John Dixon. The jail was also completed this year.

On the 16th of June the commissioners appointed Joseph Sawyer the first overseer of the poor, and David Tripp the first collector for the county of Lee.

Bearing the same date (April 16, 1840) the first license to sell intoxicating liquors in Lee county was issued to Rodney Burnett for a term of two years, for which Rodney paid the sum of 25 cents. And the first indictment by the grand jury for selling spirituous liquors without license was at the first term of the circuit court in 1840.

In the autumn of 1840 the land office was removed from Galena to Dixon. Mr. John Dixon visited Washington in this year, with application for the removal of the land office to this city. Gen. Scott being a personal friend of Mr. Dixon, and having been at Dixon during the Black Hawk war and learned the topography of the country, he rendered valuable aid to him in introducing him to the president of the United States, Mr. Van Buren, who issued the order for its removal. Col. John Dement was appointed receiver, and Major Hackelton register. These gentlemen were succeeded by D. G. Garnsey, receiver, and John Hogan, register.



*Township Organizations.* The original organization remained, with regular change of officers, until 1850, when by virtue of an act of the legislature, approved by the chief executive of the commonwealth February 12, 1849, providing for the organization of counties and townships when a majority of the legal voters of a county at any general election should so determine, by vesture of power in three commissioners, organized and established boundary lines by which the county of Lee was divided into ten civil townships.

*Paw Paw Township*, embracing the three eastern political townships, Nos. 37, 38, and 39 N., R. 2 E., of third meridian.

*Brooklyn Township*, embracing the three political townships east of the third principal meridian, Nos. 37, 38, and 39 N., R. 1 E., of third principal meridian.

*Hanno Township* embraced No. 19 N., R. 11 E., of the fourth principal meridian.

*Lee Center Township*, embracing No. 20 N., R. 11 E., of the fourth meridian.

*Bradford Township*, embracing No. 21 N., R. 11 E., and the S.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of No. 22 N., R. 11 E., of the fourth principal meridian.

*Hamilton Township*, embracing No. 19 N., R. 10, 9, 8 E., of the fourth principal meridian, and No. 20 N., R. 8 E., and the S.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of No. 20 N., R. 9 E., of the fourth principal meridian.

*Amboy Township*, embracing No. 20 N., R. 10 E., and the N.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of No. 20 N., R. 9 E., of the fourth principal meridian.

*Tremont Township*, embracing No. 21 N., R. 10 E., and the S. part of No. 22 N., R. 10 E., of the fourth principal meridian, in Lee county.

*Dixon Township*, embracing No. 21 N., R. 9 E., and that part of No. 22 N., R. 9 E., of the principal meridian, which is situated and lying in Lee county.

*Palmyra Township*, embracing that part of No. 22 N., R. 8 E., that is in Lee county; also that part of No. 21 N., R. 8 E., that is S. of Rock river.

*Palmyra Township*, embracing that part of No. 22 N., R. 8 E., that is in Lee county; also that part of No. 21 N., R. 8 E., that is N. of Rock river.

Prior to July 2 of the same year the name Wyoming was substituted for Paw Paw, and China was substituted for Tremont.

During 1855 the following townships were organized and added to the original list, making in all thirteen townships, namely, May, Willow Creek, and Marion. In 1857 Hanno was discontinued, being superseded by Sublette. The same year Harmon was organized, which was followed in 1859 by the creation of a new township called

Reynolds, after an early settler of that township. One township was added in 1860, known as Nelson, and in 1861 the board of supervisors created three new civil townships, Alto, Ogle, and township 38, political survey, which received in 1862 the name of Viola. Since that date Ogle has been eliminated from the list and two added, Ashton and South Dixon.

In February, 1871, the town of China was divided, and a new township called Nachusa was created out of the territory composing the W.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of T. 21, R. 10; and also extending north on the same line through T. 22, R. 10 E., of the fourth principal meridian to the Ogle county line, being the W.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the present township of China.

In February, 1872, the town of Dixon was divided and a portion thereof was added to the town of Nachusa, commencing at or near the center of Rock river, at or near the center of Sec. 10, T. 22, R. 9 E., of the fourth principal meridian, at the point where the line dividing the E.  $\frac{1}{2}$  and the W.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of said Sec. 10 strikes the center of said Rock river; thence south on the half section line to the center of Sec. 34; thence east to the center of Sec. 35 in the town and range aforesaid; thence south to the center of Sec. 2, T. 21, R. 9 E., of the fourth principal meridian; thence west 80 rods; thence south to the north line of South Dixon. Effort has been made to have a portion of Nachusa thrown back to Dixon township, but the committee to whom it was referred reported adversely and asked to be released from any further consideration of the matter. This leaves the county of Lee, at this writing, with twenty-two civil townships, fifteen of which are divided according to the political survey, while seven in the N.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the county were created irrespective of the political townships.

*County Officers.*—Below we give a list of all county officers from the organization of the county to the present time:

*County Commissioners.* At the first election in 1839 three commissioners were elected; after this one commissioner was elected and one went out of office each year. C. F. Ingals, Nathan Whitney and J. P. Dixon were elected in 1839, A. E. Haskell in 1840, Joseph Crawford in 1841, O. F. Ayres in 1842, J. C. Morgan in 1843, D. Baird in 1844, D. H. Birdsall in 1845, James Goble in 1846, N. Whitney in 1846 (to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of D. Baird), W. Badger in 1847, Stephen Fuller in 1848, John Gilmore in 1848 to fill vacancy.

*County Judges.* H. Morgan from 1839 to 1843, O. A. Eddy to '47, Lorenzo Wood to '54, David Welty to '62, W. W. DeWolf to '69, John D. Crabtree to '76, Jas. B. Charters present judge.

*County Clerks.* I. S. Boardman from 1839 to 1843, Chas. T.

Chase to '49, J. B. Gregory to '53, Thos. W. Eustace to '61, Jas. A. Hawley present clerk.

Circuit Clerks and Recorders. G. W. Chase from 1839 to 1841, C. T. Chase to '51, N. F. Porter in '51, I. S. Boardman to '57, G. E. Haskell to '59, I. S. Boardman in '59, B. F. Shaw to '68, J. N. Hyde to '76, R. Warriner present Clerk.

Recorders. M. Fellows from 1839 to 1844, E. W. Hine to '50. Since which time the circuit clerk has served as ex-officio recorder.

Treasurers. John Morse 1840 to 1843, N. Morehouse to '46, S. Parker in '46, W. W. Bethea to '50, E. B. Stiles to '57, T. B. Little to '59, E. B. Stiles to '63, J. T. Little to '71, Josiah Little to '76, F. A. Truman to '79, Josiah Little present treasurer.

Sheriffs. A. Wakelee from 1839 to 1841, A. L. Porter to '42, Jas. Campbell to '48, Jas. Goble to '51, A. L. Porter to '53, O. Wheeler in '53, Wm. Butler to '56, O. Wheeler to '58, Lester Harding to '60, A. L. Porter to '62, Chas. F. Lynn to '64, R. P. Treadwell to '66, T. L. Pratt to '68, G. M. Berkley to '76, J. N. Hulls to '78, Walter Little present sheriff.

Superintendents of Schools. E. R. Mason to 1840, J. T. Little to '43, D. B. McKenney to '46, Lorenzo Wood to '50, J. V. Eustace to '53, John Stevens to '55, S. Wright to '57, J. A. Hawley to '59, John Monroe to '61, W. H. Gardner to '63, B. F. Atherton to '65, J. H. Preston to '73, Daniel Carey to '76, J. H. Preston present superintendent.

Surveyors. Joseph Crawford from 1839 to 1844, S. H. Whitmore to '46, S. Parker in '46, C. Camp to '49, J. Crawford to '55, A. W. Tinkham to '57, M. Santee to '61, K. F. Booth to '63, W. B. Andrus to '65, C. R. Hall to '67, Wm. McMahan to '80.

Coroners. Sam'l Johnson from 1839 to 1841, John Lord to '48, Sol. Parker to '50, Jas. Goble to '54, D. B. McKenney to '56, H. O. Kelsey to '64, J. Hatch, jr., to '66, H. Barrell to '70, A. E. Wilcox to '78, J. E. Church present coroner.

State's Attorneys. Wm. E. Ives from 1872 to 1876, A. C. Bardwell to '80, Charles B. Morrison present incumbent.

The Circuit Judges have been Daniel Stone two terms of 1840, Thos. C. Browne to '48, B. R. Sheldon to '51, I. O. Wilkinson to '56, J. W. Drurey in '56, J. V. Eustace to '61, W. W. Heaton to '78, J. V. Eustace present judge.

March 7, John Morse was appointed first assessor for the county.

The present county officers are as follows:

County Clerk—James A. Hawley.

Circuit Clerk—Remington Warriner.

County Treasurer—Josiah Little.

County Recorder—Remington Warriner.

County Judge—James B. Charters.

County Sheriff—Walter Little.

County School Superintendent—Jas. H. Preston.

County Coroner—John C. Church.

State's Attorney—Chas. B. Morrison.

Judges 13th Judicial District—Hon. Wm. Brown, Hon. John V. Eustace, Hon. J. M. Bailey.

#### PROGRESS AND DEVELOPMENT OF LEE COUNTY.

Two or three years after the Black Hawk war the Indians were removed from the northern part of the state, leaving the country open for the white man to occupy. Settlers began to fill up the country, and in a few years all the prairie land adjoining the groves of timber was taken up. Dixon advanced from four families in 1836 to thirty-five or forty in 1838. In 1836, when Lee county was embraced in Ogle, at a closely contested election growing out of a rivalry between Dixon and Oregon, less than 200 votes were cast altogether in the county, and that under the old state constitution, providing that all white inhabitants of six months' residence in the state should be legal voters. One writer says: "As early as 1838 several wealthy families from New York and other parts of the country, attracted by the beautiful scenery and fertile lands along the Rock river, settled in the vicinity of Dixon. Among them were Capt. Hugh Graham, an old gentleman of fine presence and courtly manners, and Mr. Alexander Charters, familiarly called "the governor," whose genial, and characteristic hospitality, and whose picturesque and finely kept place, two miles above the town, have been to thousands the most attractive feature of a visit to Dixon."

In 1839 the general assembly having created Lee county, which was approved February 27, 1839, the citizens of Dixon had the opportunity to retrieve their losses in their defeat for the court-house in 1836. On the location of the county seat at this place, with the organization of a new county and the erecting of the necessary public buildings gave an impulse to the improvement and development of the county. The removal of the United States Land Office from Galena to Dixon in the autumn of 1840, and the establishment of the office of the engineer of the "Internal Improvement System" at Dixon, gave the new county a prominence that but few have been favored with.

It was reported for Lee county, in 1840, a population of 2,035. Dixon precinct had a population of 725; 125 persons were employed in agriculture, 17 in commerce, 55 at manufacture and trades, 12 in



the learned professions and engineering. There was one school and 30 scholars.

For a few years succeeding 1840 the county was of slow development. The state suffered from the great indebtedness and loss of credit occasioned by the visionary and disastrous internal improvement system of 1837, and increased in population very slowly from 1840 to 1850. The fear of taxation diverted emigration, and agricultural interests languished for want of inter-communication. There was no market for the products of the country nearer than Chicago, and the expense of transportation of them was often equal to the value of the products when sold. The cash trade of the interior towns was meager, and a credit system, ruinous to the merchant and demoralizing to the customer, prevailed."

The county, however, steadily advanced in population; lands were taken up and farms were being improved, so that by 1845 the county had a population of 3,282, an increase of 1,247 since the census of 1840; the village of Dixon had, at this time, a population of 400. There were in the county at this time 2 grist-mills, 5 saw-mills, 1 carding machine and 1 iron foundry. The assessed value of property in the county was \$28,000; horses, 900; cattle, 3,222; sheep, 2,197, and hogs, 3,905.

In 1850, as noticed previously, there was a reorganization of the county, at which time it was divided into towns, each being represented by a supervisor in the transaction of the county business, which had been done by the board of commissioners. The board of supervisors held their first session on May 13, 1850. At this time the population of Lee county was 5,289, being an increase of 2,007 since 1845; Dixon township's population was 1,073. The value of real estate was \$215,360, and of personal property \$168,341. There were twelve corporations or individuals in the county, producing articles to the value of \$5,000 annually. One was engaged in the manufacture of harvesting machines; one manufacturing plows; one producing lime; two in lumber, and two in the milling business; the capital invested was \$24,300; the average number of hands employed was twenty-three. The county had one academy, with two teachers and forty pupils; public schools, with forty-six teachers and 1,518 pupils. The average monthly wages for farm hands was \$12, and that paid to day laborers was 63 cents per day with board, and 75 cents per day without board; carpenters, \$1.50 per day; female domestics, \$1.25 per week. Board for laborers could be obtained at \$1.50 per week.

Within the next decade the county made wonderful progress, being less embarrassed by threatening taxation, while the Illinois

Central railroad was opened through it in 1855, which contributed largely to the development of the country. We find the population, as given by the census of 1860, for Lee county to be 18,854, an increase from 1850 of 13,604, or a little over 1,300 annually. This was the great decade of the popular increase of Lee county. Emigration flowed in like a tide. The material wealth of the county greatly increased. The decade of 1860 and 1870 increased 8,012 over the preceding; so that the census of 1870 gave a total population for the county of 26,866; this period embraced the years of the great struggle during the rebellion. Emigration was greatly retarded, and many of the brave sons of Lee county went to the front at their country's call and never returned. During the period from 1870 to 1880 the population of Lee county increased 3,037 over 1870. While there has been a great falling off in the increase of population within the last census period, it arises from the fact that the lands had been generally occupied; that there was not the inducement to land seekers as had formerly been. Some lands, however, were to be improved, which brought in the faithful yeomanry from the east, and manufacturing interests offered inducements to the mechanic, so that in 1880 Lee county had a population of 30,186.

## COUNTY AND TOWNSHIP CENSUS FROM 1850 TO 1880.

TOWNSHIPS.	1850	1860	1870	1880
Alto.....		301	832	
Amboy.....	504	2,507	4,104	4,699
Ashton.....			1,007	1,009
Bradford.....	158	1,252	1,086	848
Brooklyn.....	354	1,324	1,235	1,296
China.....	687	1,712	2,351	1,411
Franklin.....			757	730
Dixon.....	1,072	3,408	4,687	4,241
East Grove.....			765	797
Hamilton.....	315	355	186	427
Hanno.....	475			
Harmon.....		148	542	1,254
Lee Center.....	292	763	1,028	1,229
Marion.....		1,007	397	902
May.....		688	747	848
Nelson.....		362	600	2,313
Palmyra.....	587	1,055	1,109	1,118
Reynolds.....		288	742	743
South Dixon.....			905	973
Sublett.....		1,123	1,300	1,384
Viola.....			639	685
Willow Creek.....		729	1,019	1,348
Wyoming.....	808	1,237	1,230	1,931
COUNTY.....	5,252	18,359	27,138	30,186

*Internal Improvements.*—Very early in the history of Lee county a system of internal improvements was inaugurated in the state, for which tax was laid upon the people that became a burden, embarrassed the settlement and growth of the state, and from which Lee county suffered greatly. Railroads were contemplated as well as the improvement of Rock river by a system of slack water navigation. These works were begun and carried forward as long as the state exchequer was flush, but it was afterward abandoned for want of means to carry forward the project. This being in 1836 and 1837, before the county was developed, the embarrassment enforced upon the new state deferred the building of railroads for near twenty years, when the Illinois Central ran her first train across the Rock river bridge at Dixon in 1855. This event was of first importance to Lee county, causing not only the rapid growth of Dixon but the founding of Amboy car works, which gave rise to the growth of that young city. This road was followed by the Chicago & Northwestern road, the Chicago & Rock River, and the C. D. & M. road.

*The Dixon Air Line Railroad* was built by the Galena & Chicago Union Railroad Company from the junction, thirty miles west of Chicago, in 1854 and 1855. The original design seems to have been to make this a branch to operate as a feeder to the main line, tapping the Rock river valley at this point. The subsequent rapid development of the country and the constant increase of business induced its extension westward, striking the "Father of Waters" at a point opposite Clinton in Iowa. Soon after the Galena & Chicago Union, with its branches, and the Northwestern (Chicago & Green Bay) were consolidated under the general name of the Northwestern, a railroad bridge crossing the Mississippi at Clinton was completed, and the "Dixon Air Line" became one of the leading trunk lines between Chicago and the Pacific coast. Mr. Charles Chase was appointed agent at Dixon. The first business done in the receipt and shipment of freights at this point was about February 10, 1855, five days before that branch of business was commenced at the Illinois Central depot. Mr. Chase was succeeded as agent by Mr. J. R. Stewart, Mr. Charles Murray following, then Mr. George Rogers, who was succeeded by the present agent, Mr. H. E. Hand.

BUSINESS DONE BY THE N. W. R. R. AT DIXON DEPOT FOR PREVIOUS YEAR.

FREIGHT FORWARDED		FREIGHT RECEIVED	
Tonnage	Unpaid	Tonnage	Unpaid
18,595	\$48,248.56	10,313	\$31,409.62

SALE OF TICKETS.

Local Tickets.	Coupon Tickets.	Extra Baggage.	
\$1,728.42	\$668.95	\$2.55	For 1889.

COAL RECEIVED AND FORWARDED.

Soft coal via Ill. Central and distributed at Dixon for the company		Hard coal received and delivered at Dixon.	
Weight.	Chgs. paid I. C. R. R.	Weight.	Unpaid.
49,290.700	\$10,464.20	1,882,717	\$2,076.41

GRAIN SHIPMENTS TO CHICAGO.

Wheat.	Corn.	Oats.	Barley	Rye
8,954	197,239	37,481	8,181	8,654

The Illinois Central was also built in 1854 and 1855. Its beautiful iron bridge at this point was completed January 1, 1855; the last rail was laid upon it in the midst of a furious northwest snowstorm on that day. Receipts and shipments of freight commenced on February 15, under Mr. Addison Chase as agent; Mr. Chase was succeeded by Mr. S. Y. Pierce, then Mr. A. E. Mason, who was followed by Mr. W. C. Wooley. The latter was appointed September 15, 1858.

In the summer of 1876 a project was formed for building the Rock River Valley railroad, connecting the Rock Island & St. Louis with the Chicago & Pacific, thus forming another trunk line between Chicago and St. Louis and the great west and south. A company was formed, with Mr. James A. Hawley, of Dixon, as president, surveys and location made, grading commenced along the line of Water street in this city, when the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy absorbed the stock of the southern portion of the road, thereby crushing the Valley road, together with all the fine schemes of the inhabitants, for the present, for the further development of the water power and manufacturing interest of the valley. Some consolation, however, for the loss of these prospective commercial advantages lies in the fact that had the road been completed on the line as lo-



cated, the iron horse, with its trains of living freight and commerce, would have marred some of the most beautiful natural scenery to be found on the continent.

The Illinois Central enters the county on the south, crossing the line twelve miles west of the southeast corner of the county, and running due northwest passes Amboy to Dixon, where it crosses the Rock river, following that valley two or three miles north, then bearing west it passes out of the county five miles east of the northwest corner of the county. The track of this road is laid through Dixon on a high grade and system of arches over the principal streets, and across the river by a magnificent iron bridge resting on huge stone abutments and piers.

The Chicago & Northwestern enters the county on the north, eleven miles west of the northeast corner, passing south of the city of Dixon, where it crosses the Illinois Central, and passing down the Rock river valley it emerges from the county on the west, one mile north of the river.

The Chicago & Iowa, known as the Chicago, Dubuque & Minnesota road, crosses the northeast corner of the county dividing Alto township, diagonally, into two equal parts.

The Chicago & Rock River road enters the county on the east, at Paw Paw, four miles north of the southeast corner of the county, and bearing north of west to Amboy, and from thence to the Rock river, passing out of the county on the west two miles south of Rock river.

*Navigation.*—But little can be said respecting navigation in Lee county. Although congress recognized Rock river as a navigable stream, they neglected to legislate sufficient water in the channel, in consequence of which the commercial world failed to utilize what water already flowed between its banks. There are times, however, that were it not for the bridges and dams that now obstruct the river the heaviest Mississippi boats could safely pass up to Dixon. In an early day the Mississippi river steamboats occasionally made trips up Rock river. In April, 1838, the steamer Gipsy went up the river as far as Oregon; she had on board a load of bacon bought in St. Louis by Mr. Phelps, of Oregon. There was some dissatisfaction in regard to the contract and Mr. Phelps would not take the meat; Smith Gilbraith was aboard the boat and told the captain to turn around and unload the bacon at Dixon. It was unloaded at the foot of Peoria street. In July, 1844, the Lighter ascended the river as far as Janesville, Wisconsin. Perhaps this is the time that Col. Johnson wanted the "boys" to "fire off the stump" in honor of her arrival, which some of the early settlers recall with so much amusement.



Yours Truly  
C. C. Hunt



It had been announced that a boat would be up the river on a certain day, and preparations were made to receive her, and Col. Johnson was selected to make the address of welcome to the captain and crew. Being in primitive days there was no navy howitzer or military field-piece with which to fire the salute. The colonel, however, was equal to the emergency, and ordered a stump, which stood on the bank of the river, to be bored with a large auger, and loaded with powder and tow, to be in readiness to fire off on the approach of the expected steamer. An adjacent saloon was chosen as the base of observation. Here they would plan the reception, and anon appear on the bank looking for the "smoke way down the river," which was slow to appear. The day was far spent, and the sun was fast sinking behind the western hills, and they were weary of waiting and watching for the great water-witch, when the cry was raised, "the steamboat is coming." Headed by the colonel the anxious committee emerged from the saloon to hail the great steamer. It was, however, but a small hull, but being blinded by weary watching the orator mistook the stranger for the long expected, and lifting his hat he delivered his address of "welcome, welcome to our shores," and, turning to the artillerymen, the order was given, "Boys, shoot off the stump;" and as the reverberations of the shooting stump were dying away beyond the Rock river hills the little cruiser rounded into port, and, safely mooring, received the honors which were designed for one that did not come. The old citizens believe until this day that the address of welcome and the cannonading injunction were appropriate to the occasion.

A small steamer is now plying between Dixon and Grand Detour, a run of nine miles up the river. In this distance there is a fall of nine and a half feet, and the flow of the current of Rock river at low-water mark is 7,355 cubic feet of water per minute, which is sufficient for good water-power, but requiring slack water for navigation. This is met by the dam across the river at Dixon, which is seven feet in height. In an early day the commissioners of Lee county granted the right to build a dam across the river at Dixon. Now the river is spanned by bridges and obstructed by dams, an indication that the idea of the profitable navigation of Rock river has been abandoned.

#### COUNTY BUILDINGS.

*Location.*—The undersigned commissioners appointed by the act creating the county of Lee "Approved February 27, 1839," having been duly sworn and after examination, having due regard to the settlements and convenience of the present and future population of said county of Lee, do hereby locate the seat of justice for the aforesaid



county of Lee at the town of Dixon; and have stuck the stake for the place or point at which the public buildings shall be erected on the quarter section composed of the west half of the northwest quarter of the section four, township number twenty-one, range nine east, of the 4th principal meridian, and the east half of the northeast quarter of section number five, same township and range aforesaid. And we further report that the proprietors and owners of lots in the aforesaid town of Dixon have executed certain bonds guaranteeing the payment of six thousand four hundred and sixty dollars, which is exclusive of one thousand and fifty dollars signed by Messrs. Gilbraith, Wilkinson & Dement, which is embraced and included in a bond of three thousand dollars, and included above; also one bond for a deed of eighty acres of land adjoining said town of Dixon: all of which is respectfully submitted to the county commissioners' court of Lee county. Given under our hands and seals this 21st day of May, A. D. 1839.

D. G. SALISBURY. [SEAL].

ETHAN H. NICHOLS. [SEAL].

L. G. BUTLER. [SEAL].

On the 27th of December, 1839, the court of commissioners received plans and specifications which were submitted by the clerk for the building of the court-house of stone or brick, and put the same on file. At the same time the clerk submitted plans and specifications for building a jail of stone and timber, which was also accepted and placed on file. The clerk was further ordered to advertise for sealed proposals, which would be received up to the 6th of January, 1840, for building said court-house and jail; and on the 7th of January the court awarded the building of the jail to Messrs. Aplington & Holbrook for the sum of fourteen hundred and ninety-five dollars; and the building of the court-house was awarded to Samuel M. Bowman, which was to be of brick and was to cost the sum of six thousand and eight hundred dollars, in accordance with his bid.

The court-house was erected according to the contract during the year 1840; and as it was accepted of the commissioners from the hands of the builders, it is just to presume that it was located on the parcel of ground that was pinned by the stake which was driven by the commissioners on the selection of the site for the seat of justice. That was a great day for the county of Lee, which saw the stake driven that has held the seat of justice on the beautiful eminence for more than forty years.

The commissioners were fortunate in the selection of a location "so beautiful for situation." The plat of ground on which it stands extends from Second to Third street, north and south, and from Ottawa street on the east to Galena street on the west. It is inclosed and the

yard has been cultivated into a beautiful lawn and shady grove in the midst of which the court-house stands. From the court-house the ground recedes with a gentle slope so that the people emphatically "go up to the house of justice," The court-room is on the second floor, and over the judge's stand hangs upon the wall a life-size portrait of Mr. John Dixon, the founder of the city and the first white settler in Lee county. From the observatory may be seen the clear waters of Rock river as they flow out from between the hills far away to the north and come meandering down the beautiful valley and flow away to be lost behind the forest-covered bluffs to the southward.

The jail was built of hewed logs erected on a stone foundation and was located on the south side of Third street opposite the court-house. It was erected during 1840; but a brick building for the county sheriff's mansion being erected on the southeast corner of Ottawa and Second streets in 1846, the jail was removed to that location and re-erected back of said building some time in 1847. This wooden structure served the county for the incarceration of her criminals until 1872. Although it had been set on fire at different times it was able to hold those committed to its keeping. In 1868 or 1869 a prisoner attempted to burn his way out of his confinement with a hot poker, and would doubtless have succeeded had not some small boys been playing near by and discovered the burning of the jail. In the February term of the court, 1872, the supervisors provided for the building of the present jail by making an appropriation of eighteen thousand dollars for the purpose. There were also plans provided for the sale of the old jail property and the purchase of new lots for the jail and sheriff's house. This was prosecuted and the buildings erected where they now stand, on lots Nos. two and three on the southeast corner of Third and Hennepin streets. The contract was let to Messrs. Jobst & Price, of Peoria, this state.

The sheriff's house is built of brick ornamented with dressed stone, making it a very attractive edifice. The jail which connects it on the rear is built of dressed stone, and is very secure. The buildings are not only an addition to the good appearance of that part of the city, but are a credit to the county.

*The Government Land Office.*—In 1840, when the government land office was removed from Galena to Dixon, the mode of conveyance, as well as the means of communication, was in a primitive state. The office, with its iron safe, papers and maps, was loaded upon a "prairie schooner," under the command of Col. John Dement, receiver, and Mayor Hackelton, register. Left in charge of a driver, and propelled by half a dozen yokes of oxen, this conveyance was many days on the road, traveling a distance of sixty-five miles. It arrived in the

fall of that year, in the midst of the presidential campaign which resulted in the election of Gen. Harrison. It was first opened in the Van Arnam building, on Ottawa street. At that time but a small portion of the lands in the district had been brought into market, and the subsequent heavy sales brought people from all parts of the country loaded with specie with which to make their entries. The specie was subsequently shipped to the sub-treasury at St. Louis.

The small stone building occupied by the land office department, is still standing on the northwest corner of Ottawa and Second streets.

#### RELIGIOUS PROGRESS IN THE COUNTY.

The first Methodist sermon preached in the region of country between Rock Island and Galena, was by the Rev. Mr. Sugg, in the house of John Ankany. The Illinois conference recognized this as missionary territory in 1835, and appointed Rev. James McKean in charge of what was called the Henderson Mission. Rev. Henry Summers was presiding elder of the district. The headquarters of the mission was Elkhorn Grove. Early in 1836 Rev. McKean passed Dixon's Ferry; and after crossing the river he returned and announced to the few people who were standing on the bank of the river, "I will preach in this place four weeks from to-day," and rode away, leaving his auditors to conjecture as to who and what manner of man he was. On the appointed day the mysterious stranger appeared with saddle-bags, hymn-book and Bible, and found the neighbors assembled to hear what message he might bring to them. He continued his visits to the ferry, preaching in their cabins or in the grove, until some time in 1837, when he organized the first Methodist class in Dixon and Lee county. The following persons were received as the original members of this class: S. M. Bowman, and Mrs. E. A. Bowman; John Richards, and Ann Richards; Caleb Tallmage, and Amanda Tallmage, and Maria McClure. The society worshiped in a room over Messrs. Bowman & Boardman's store, corner of Galena and Water streets. In the following fall (1837) Revs. Robert Delap and Barton Cartwright were sent as circuit preachers, by the authority of Bishop Roberts; Alfred Brunson being presiding elder. The preaching place this year was in a frame school-house, 20×30 feet. This house was used as a court-house and all public gatherings as well as a place for worship. Rev. Delap's health failing, he retired from the work in May, leaving his colleague in full charge until the close of the year. He was known as the "Prairie Breaker," which honor he received as an expressed appreciation of Christian and earnest work as a missionary on the great prairies of Illinois. The circuit being large, the society received a visit from their minister once in six weeks. Not un-

frequently the pioneer preacher would be absent from his home for a number of weeks successively without so much as hearing from home and loved ones who were anxiously waiting and longing for his return. In the autumn of 1838 Isaac Pool and Riley Hill were appointed to this mission by Bishop Soul. Rev. Hill was esteemed as a young man of fine talents, but his work was short, having fallen in his Master's work early in the next year at the inlet, now called Lee Center. His place was filled by Rev. Luke Hiecock, who was reappointed in the fall of 1839, by Bishop Roberts. Bartholomew Weed was appointed presiding elder of the district.

There had been received in the society, in addition to the original members, up to August 1839, T. D. Boardman, Mr. and Mrs. Perry, and Mr. and Mrs. McCabe, and in the following October the society was greatly strengthened by the addition of O. F. Ayres and wife. In the fall of 1840 Richard A. Blanchard was appointed to the Dixon circuit, by Bishop Wagh. During this conference year the Rock River conference was organized (in May, 1841), and held its first session at Mount Morris; John Clark being presiding elder of the district, known as the Mount Morris district; and at this session of the conference Philo Judson was appointed to Dixon circuit, and S. S. Stocking, presiding elder.

At a quarterly conference that convened at Daysville, June 8, 1842, the first steps were taken toward the building of a house of worship, by appointing T. Judson, S. G. Holbrook, L. G. Winkoop, and J. Dixon a committee to estimate the probable expense of erecting a church edifice in Dixon. They reported at a subsequent meeting, which lead to the beginning of the building which was completed the following year, and dedicated by the Rev. John T. Mitchel, at that time presiding elder of the district. It was a brick structure, and was completed at a cost of \$4,000. It was located on Second street, near Ottawa. The board of trustees consisted of J. P. Dixon, C. Edson, O. F. Ayres, W. G. Winkoop, Thomas McCabe, J. Brierton and S. M. Bowman.

At the session of Rock River conference held in Chicago, August 3, 1842, Bishop Roberts presiding, the Dixon circuit which then embraced Washington Grove, Lighthouse Point, Jefferson Grove, Daysville, and Paynes Point, was extended so as to include Palestine Grove, Malugin's Grove, and Inlet Grove, now Lee Center. Philo Judson and W. H. Cooley were appointed circuit preachers. This work was divided, soon after, by the presiding elder Mitchel setting off all the territory north of Franklin Grove to W. H. Cooley, and the southern division was left under the pastoral care of P. Judson. This order, however, was revoked at the following quarterly conference held November 12, 1842, placing it back to its former arrangement.



Sabbath-schools were now organized,—the first at Dixon soon after the dedication of the chapel; and at the quarterly conference held July 15, 1843, the following was reported: "There are two schools in the lower division of the circuit; and one at Dixon with eight teachers, sixty scholars, and a library of ninety volumes." The superintendent was O. F. Ayres; the secretary, T. D. Boardman, and John W. Clute was librarian. This was a union school up to 1845, when it became a Methodist denominational school. O. F. Ayres continued superintendent for ten years, when the demand upon his time and talents for the pulpit was so great that he was compelled to resign his office, to the regret of himself and the school.

Washington Wilcox was appointed to the circuit in 1843, and was succeeded by the appointment of David Brooks in the autumn of 1844, and Stephen P. Keys in 1845, under whose labors a great temperance work was done, closing up all places where strong drink had been sold. The number in church membership was increased one third during the year. In the fall of 1846 his place was filled by the appointment of Milton Henry and R. W. H. Brent to the charge.

At the session of Rock River Conference in the autumn of 1847 the Dixon circuit was embraced in the Rock Island district, under the presiding eldership of John Sinclair. R. P. Lawton was appointed preacher in charge of the circuit, and in the following year under the labors of Rev. William Palmer, appointed by Bishop Morris, the church enjoyed the visitation of a special revival, under which many were converted and added to the church. The Sabbath schools were prospering. In the Dixon school were eight teachers, fifty scholars, and twenty dollars' worth of new library books. During the pastorate of Mr. Palmer, the basement of the chapel was finished, and a bell purchased for the tower. He was succeeded by Thomas North in 1850, under whose labors a noted revival occurred.

Soon after Rev. McKean visited the neighborhood of Dixon's Ferry, the Rev. Thomas Powel, of the Baptist church, came to Buffalo Grove as the forerunner of that denomination; and as early as 1838 organized the first Baptist church of the vicinity at Buffalo Grove, which was the parent society of the First Baptist church of Dixon. The original society was divided into the Buffalo church and the Dixon church. The former, however, was subsequently discontinued.

Rev. Thomas Powel was an earnest pioneer missionary, and lives in the memory of the church revered as the founder of the Baptist denomination of the christian church.

In connection with these pioneer ministers may be mentioned also the Rev. L. Hitchcock, Bishop Chase, of the Episcopal church, and Rev. James De Pui, who experienced with them the privations of

the early days of Lee county. The life of the itinerant in those days was one of sacrifice not only to the faithful minister, but to his family. Exposed to perils in floods and storms, as well as long tedious rides across the unbroken prairie, fording streams, sometimes by swimming his faithful and orthodox horse; startled by the scream of the wild-cat or howl of the wolf from the evening shades of a neighboring grove; lodging in the pioneer cabin, whose clapboard roof but illy turned the falling rain or drifting snow.

On July 5, 1843, a Congregational society was organized at the residence of Moses Crombie, and was called the "Congregational Church of Palestine Grove." The congregation worshiped in a school-house about a mile from the present site of the city of Amboy. They were ministered to by Rev. John Merrill, Rev. Ingersoll, father of the notorious Robert Ingersoll of the present day, Rev. Joseph Gardner and Rev. Mr. Pierson. The last two divided their labors with Grand Detour and Palestine Grove. This society was formed before there was a house erected where Amboy now stands. The organization was afterward removed to Lee Center, in 1849. In 1854 the Amboy Congregational church was organized. But as these local societies will be noticed in connection with the township in which they are located, we will not give a detailed account in this connection.

At an early day a Rev. Mr. Warriner, of the Baptist faith, commenced preaching at Paw Paw Grove, in the southeast corner of the township, and afterward became the pastor of the present Baptist society in that place.

The religious societies have exerted a salutary influence on the moral development of the county.

*Sabbath Schools.*—The first Sabbath school was organized as a union school, in the new Methodist Episcopal church soon after its dedication, and on July 15, 1843, there were reported eight teachers, sixty scholars, and a library of ninety volumes. O. F. Ayers was superintendent, T. D. Boardman, secretary, and J. W. Clute, librarian. This school afterward became the denominational school of the Methodist church. Other schools were organized as the several denominations organized societies. Sabbath schools are, at present, connected with all the churches in Lee county, and special reference will be made to them in connection with the history of each society. The total number of members of the several schools in Dixon aggregate about 800, the total number of volumes in library in the several schools is about 2,025.

At an early day, and about the time of the organization of the union school in Dixon, referred to above, there were schools organized in other parts of the county,—Inlet Grove, Malugin's Grove, and probably at Palestine Grove.

The method of conducting Sabbath schools at this early day was quite primitive. There were but few conveniences compared with what are regarded as essentials in a well regulated modern Sunday school. There was no literature provided specially for the young, no Sabbath-school songs as now. The old hymn or psalm book was in constant use. It would seem odd, in these days of advancement and improvement, to require the infant class to repeat their A B C, or rehearse a spelling lesson, after opening the school by singing "Am I a Soldier of the Cross?" and before singing the closing hymn "How Tedious and Tasteless the Hours!"; and yet such was the custom of the gone-by days. But these primitive schools were not failures, but served to impart moral sentiments and cultivate religious tendencies that have developed some of the best men of the country. At the present time the Sabbath schools of Lee county are fully abreast of the times.

*Heresy.*—Lee county has been visited by religious heresy and fanaticism under the banner of Mormonism. After the murder of the great Mormon high priest, Joe Smith, his brother, William Smith, with a small band of followers, took up their residence in Lee county, about twelve miles south of Dixon, where they kept up their organization and meetings for some time.

At the April term of circuit court in 1853, on the trial of the application of William Smith for a divorce, the jury found a verdict for the lady.

The following is part of a letter showing the "mind of the Lord" as revealed to his servant William Smith:

"Behold, verily, this is the mind of the Lord concerning those females who have received the priesthood by being sealed to my servants William Smith and Joseph Wood for many years a lawyer at Paw Paw, this county, and have been washed, anointed and ordained under their hands, having been received into the priestess' lodge—having taken the covenant thereof; if they, or either of them, shall fall, or turn altogether therefrom, she or they shall be excluded therefrom and from my church also, and shall not come forth in the resurrection of the just. \* \* \*

"Therefore, I, Jesus Christ, who am your Father and God, say unto you, if your wives be treacherous and sin against you and repent not, I will reveal it unto you. Therefore confide in me, and I will be your God and you shall be my servants. Amen.

"Yours truly,

"WILLIAM SMITH."

*The First School-house.*—Dr. O. Everett, in the "History of Dixon and Palmyra," published in 1880, says:

"In looking over some old papers recently, I came across the sub-

scription paper for building the first school-house in Dixon, and have thought that it would not be without interest to many of your readers. This paper was got up in January 1837, and contains many names familiar to the old settlers. The subscription paper reads as follows:

“ We, the subscribers, agree to pay the sums severally attached to our names, for the purpose of erecting a school-house in the town of Dixon. Said school-house shall be for the teaching of primary schools, and shall be open for religious meetings of all denominations when not occupied by the schools.

“ Said house shall be one story high, and at least forty feet by twenty on the ground, and shall contain two rooms, which shall be connected by a door or doors, as may be thought proper.

“ The subscribers shall meet on Monday, the 20th day of February next, at six o'clock P.M., and choose three trustees to superintend the building of said house. The trustees shall have power to collect the money subscribed, contract for and purchase materials for said house, and employ workmen to build the same. They shall see that it is done in a plain, workmanlike manner, so far as the funds shall warrant.

NAMES.		NAMES.	
Jas. P. Dixon, . . .	\$25 00	Geo. L. Chapman, . . .	\$5 00
Oliver Everett, . . .	25 00	W. H. Rowe, . . .	10 00
John Wilson, . . .	25 00	J. W. Dixon, . . .	10 00
Caleb Talmage, . . .	20 00	E. W. Covill, . . .	25 00
J. B. Barr, . . .	10 00	E. A. Statia, . . .	5 00
Samuel Leonard, . . .	5 00	S. W. Johnson, . . .	10 00
Jacob Rue, . . .	5 00	Robert Murray, . . .	10 00
B. B. Brown, . . .	5 00	Sam'l C. McClure, . . .	15 00
Samuel Gatten, . . .	5 00	Mrs. E. N. Hamilton, . . .	15 00
Edwin Hine, . . .	5 00	Horace Thompson, . . .	5 00
Elijah Dixon, . . .	15 00	Mrs. R. Dixon, . . .	30 00
Hiram P. Parks, . . .	10 00	L. D. Butler, . . .	5 00
John Q. Adams (expunged),	00 10	M. L. Dixon, . . .	5 00
Seth D. Brittain, . . .	20 00	Mrs. A. Talmage, . . .	5 00
(If he settles here.)		Mrs. M. H. Barr, . . .	10 00
Lemuel Huff, . . .	15 00	J. Murphy, . . .	10 00
Alanson Dickerman, . . .	5 00	N. W. Brown, . . .	5 00
John Snider, . . .	5 00	S. M. Bowman, . . .	10 00
H. Martin, . . .	5 00	John Richards, . . .	10 00
W. P. Burroughs, . . .	15 00	C. F. Hubbard, . . .	5 00
John Dixon, . . .	20 00	W. W. Graham, . . .	5 00
I. S. Boardman, . . .	10 00	T. L. Hubbard, . . .	5 00
A friend, . . .	5 00	John Carr, . . .	5 00
M. McCabe, . . .	10 00	George Kip, . . .	5 00
Allen Wiley, . . .	10 00	Wm. Graham, . . .	5 00
J. W. Hamilton, . . .	5 00		

“ It will be noticed that many of the subscribers were persons living some distance in the country, and of those who came to the



county during the next season. The reason that Father Dixon's name was not at or near the head of the list is that he was away that winter to Vandalia, then the capital of the state. It may also be noticed that the matter dragged somewhat, as such enterprises often do, and the ladies took it up, Mrs. Dixon giving the largest subscription on the list and Mrs. Hamilton a generous amount. Again it may be noticed that one John Q. Adams, not our present John Q. Adams, but an unworthy bearer of a great name, in subscribing put two 00 where the dollars ought to have been, making his subscription but 10 cents. When his attention was called to it he said it was just as he intended to have it. His name was dealt with as was fashionable at that time; it was expunged.

"The old school-house was built during the summer of 1837, of the size and form specified in the subscription paper, about twenty rods west of the cemetery, on or near lot one, block sixty-nine, now occupied by Harry Smith. It was built perfectly plain, without a cornice, and inclosed with undressed oak siding and a hardwood shingle roof. The inside consisted of two rooms, one six feet by twenty, extending across the end of the building, serving as an entrance-way or vestibule to the main room, which was twenty by thirty-four feet, with three windows on either side and one at the end of the room opposite the entrance. It was plastered on the inside with a single coat of coarse brown mortar, and was warmed during winter with a wood fire in a large box stove. In 1839 it was moved down to the north end of lot five, block seventeen, on the east side of Ottawa street, just south of the residence of Dr. Nash, now occupied by Daniel McKenney, fronting to the north upon the alley. There it remained for several years, and was used for school-house, meeting-house and court-house (the first three terms of the circuit court of Lee county were held in it). Elections and political meetings and conventions were held in it, and it was always used for whatever other purpose the people might congregate.

"The old school-house was very plain, rough and uninviting to look upon, but there are many recollections associated with it which are always dwelt upon by the early settlers with great interest, and should make the memory of it dear to the people of Dixon. It was within its rough brown walls that the venerable and revered Bishop Chase, then senior bishop of the American Episcopal church, first preached to the scattered members of his fold as were hereabout, and broke to them the bread of the sacrament, and where Rev. James De Pui, a man of rare culture and gentle and genial social qualities, preached for more than twelve months. It was there that the Methodist and Baptist churches of this place were formed and nurtured in their infancy.

"The Rev. Dr. Hitchcock and the Rev. Philo Judson, who for

nearly half a century have been among the foremost laborers in the great and beneficent organization to which they belong, then in the vigor of early manhood, each preached his two years there. The Rev. Thomas Powell, a devoted missionary of the Baptist denomination, well known among the early settlers of no inconsiderable portion of the state for his indefatigable and faithful service in the religious interest of the people, then often living remote from each other, and either destitute or but poorly supplied with competent religious teachers, often held services in the old school-house, and officiated at the formation of the Baptist church of Dixon. Also the Rev. Burton Carpenter, the remembrance of whose labors here is cherished by many of the old settlers, and who in the high standing he afterward attained in the denomination to which he belongs, and in a life of great usefulness in another part of the state, he has not disappointed the expectations of his early friends, commenced his labors in the ministry and preached about three years in this same old school-house. During nearly the whole time religious services were held in the old school-house the Methodist and Baptist congregations occupied it alternate Sundays,—the Methodist clergyman preaching at Inlet Grove or Sugar Grove, and Mr. Carpenter at Buffalo Grove the intervening Sabbaths.

“In the spring of 1840 there was a convention of the whig party of the Jo Daviess representative district, which embraced the whole north-western part of the state, held at the school-house, and Thomas Drummond, known in this generation as Judge Drummond, of the United States court at Chicago, then a young lawyer of Galena, was nominated as a candidate for member of the house of representatives in the state legislature. Here presented an extent of territory now constituting nearly two congressional districts. Among the teachers in the old school-house was the late lamented W. W. Heaton, whom the citizens of Dixon have seen rise by his industry and legal acquirements from the schoolmaster's chair to the bench.

“In the beginning of the year 1843 the Methodist church was finished and dedicated, and the court-house was so far completed that the courts were held in it, and was used for religious and political meetings, and the old school-house fell into comparative disuse.

“Some time during the year 1844 it began to be noised about that John Van Arnam claimed the old school-house as his property, as he had purchased the lot upon which it stood. One day the people were notified that upon a tap on their windows the night following they might know that they were wanted at the school-house, and the less said about it the better. Upon arriving there we found it surrounded by a great crowd busy at work. Some were raising the building with crow-bars and levers, others adjusting planks and rollers under the sills.

There was that prince of movers of old buildings, N. G. H. Morrill, as usual, directing operations, not giving authoritative orders to others, but by taking hold and showing them how by doing the major part of the work himself. The industrious crowd tugged away in silence or talking in whispers or suppressed tones, now moving the heavy oak building an inch or two, and again making a more fortunate move and getting ahead several inches or one or two feet, until it was thought the building was entirely over the edge of the lot, but by pacing from the street and making observations in the dark it was thought best to give it just another little shove to make the thing sure. So all took hold with a will, and the old school-house began to move again upon the rollers and made a lunge of twelve or fifteen feet, creaking and groaning as it went, as if conscious of the ignoble uses of trade to which it was destined, for the time came (my pen grows shaky as I write it) when it was used for liquor selling. Upon this last move of the old school-house every tongue seemed loosened, and all gave vent to their satisfaction in a wild shout or cheer, which rang through the darkness, and by its heartiness (so I was informed) quieted the fears of some of the ladies whose husbands had at the tap on the window so mysteriously bounced out of bed and left them without saying a word. About this time Mr. Morrill, upon a vote of two freeholders at an election held for the purpose of voting upon the question of building a new school-house, was building the stone structure for that purpose back of the Nachusa house, so the old building was sold and moved down on the corner of Main and Hennepin streets, and was used for various purposes of trade, and finally burned in the great fire on Main street in 1859."

#### CRIME.

It is by no means a pleasant duty to the historian to chronicle the wicked deeds of men, or bring to light the dark phase of humanity to cast a shadow upon the fair fame of a civil and cultured community; but there are obligations which the science of history imposes upon every hand that wields a historic pen, that cannot be disregarded and claim the honor of an impartial historian; though gladly would we draw the veil of oblivion over the faults of erring humanity were they not so intimately associated with the welfare and peace of a community.

As every page of human history seems to be stained with blood and bedewed with tears, the fair pages of the history of Lee county are not unsullied by the dark spots of crime. These rolling prairies and beautiful groves have been the theater of bloodshed and crime. The following anecdote written by an early citizen of Palmyra, Lee county, will be in place here to illustrate the mixed state of society in the early days of the history of Lee county. He says:

"We had a weekly eastern mail, carried from Chicago in the Frink & Walker coaches, on Saturday. On that day all those who had reason to expect letters met in Dixon to get their mail and exchange drinks at a little building near the ferry, called "The Hole in the Wall." Here we also met many of those curious waifs and strays of society, of which Dixon, like all frontier towns, had her full share. Among them was a man by the name of Truett, who had shot an editor of a paper in cold blood, but had escaped the rope. An old gentleman had been introduced to him; without hearing his name distinctly, after some conversation with him, said to his introducer, "Who is that fellow, Billy, you introduced to me?" "Oh, that," said he, "is Truett—Truett who murdered Dr. Early." His horror on hearing this was most ludicrous. "Shaken hands with a murderer!" he exclaimed. "Good God!" shaken hands with a murderer! Bring me some water." And he continued to turn his hands over and over and vociferate for water until a basinful was brought and he was enabled to wash out the spot."

Lee county was infested with members of the great "Banditti of the Prairies," that was exposed and published by Edward Bonney as early as 1844. This author says: "The valley of the Mississippi river from its earliest settlement has been more infested with reckless and blood-stained men than any other part of the country, being more congenial to their habits and offering the greatest inducements to follow their nefarious and dangerous trade. Situated as it is, of great commercial importance, together with its tributaries stretching four thousand miles north from the Gulf of Mexico, and draining all the country south and west of the great chain of lakes, and between the Alleghany and Rocky mountains, it has afforded them an unequalled chance to escape detection and pursuit, and thus wooed, as it were, countless villains and blood-stained, law-doomed ones to screen themselves in its bosom.

"Organized bands, trampling upon right and defying all law human and divine, have so annoyed the peaceful and quiet citizens of this great valley, that in the absence of a sufficient judicial power the aid of "Judge Lynch" has been but too frequently called in and a neighboring tree proved a gallows, and 'a short shrift and strong cord' been the doom of those who have ever plead vainly for mercy at its bar."

The same author adds: "So great, indeed, was the terror that the banditti had caused that the good, quiet, and orderly citizens, before retiring to rest at night, made all preparations for resistance that were in their power, and armed to the teeth, with doors and windows securely barred and bolted, laid down in fear and trembling to wish for the return of morning again."



A plan had long been on foot to rob the Dixon land office, by intercepting the stage conveying the deposits to Chicago. Large sales of public lands had been made and the money deposited in the Dixon land office. "One of the gang, in order to ascertain the particulars and the precise time of its removal, took occasion to ask the receiver when he intended to go to Chicago. The receiver, however, being upon his guard, and a prudent man, set the time one week later than he intended to start, and thereby baffled the preconcerted schemes of the robbers."

At the time designated by the receiver for making the deposit the stage-coach belonging to Frink, Walker & Co., which was supposed to be carrying the money, was stopped near Rockford, and a trunk taken out by the robbers, which contained, however, only clothing. Every effort to apprehend the perpetrators of the theft was fruitless.

William Cullen Bryant wrote in June 21, 1841, "When I arrived in Dixon I was told that the day before, a man named Bridge, living at Washington Grove, Ogle county, came to town and complained that he had received notice from a certain association that he must leave the county before the 17th day of the month, or that he would be looked upon as a popular subject for lynch law. He asked for assistance to defend himself and dwelling against lawless violence of these men. The people of Dixon came together and passed a resolution to the effect that they approved fully of what the inhabitants of Ogle county had done, and that they allowed Mr. Bridge the term of four hours to depart from the town of Dixon. He went away immediately and in great trepidation. This Bridge is a notorious confederate and harborer of horse thieves and counterfeiters. The thinly settled populations of Illinois were much exposed to the depredations of horse thieves, who have a kind of center of operations in Ogle county, where it is said that they have a justice of the peace and constable among their own associates, and where they contrive to secure a friend on the jury whenever any one of their number is tried. Trial after trial had been held, and it was impossible to obtain conviction on the clearest evidence, until April 1841, when two horse thieves being on trial, eleven of the jury threatened the twelfth with a taste of the cowskin unless he would bring in a verdict of guilty. He did so, and the men were condemned. Before they were removed to the state prison the court-house burned down and the jail was in flames, but luckily they were extinguished without the liberation of the prisoners." The man Bridge, who was compelled to flee from Dixon, and to whom reference was made above, had his family removed and house demolished on the 27th of the same month by the "Regulators."

Horse thieves infested this country at this time, and extended their

operations from Wisconsin to St. Louis and from the Wabash to the Mississippi. Bryant wrote: "In Ogle county they seemed to have been bolder than elsewhere, and more successful, notwithstanding the notoriety of their crimes, in avoiding punishment. The impossibility of punishing them, the burning of the court-house at Oregon city last April, and the threats of deadly vengeance thrown out by them against such as should attempt to bring them to justice, led to the formation of a company of citizens—"Regulators" they called themselves—who determined to take the law in their own hands and drive the felons from the neighborhood. This extended over Ogle, De Kalb and Winnebago. The resistance to these desperadoes resulted in the death of some of their number who had been dealt with summarily and some good citizens were assassinated by a band of thieves."

In the early days of the county a great number of horses were bred and herded on the prairies. Every "full-grown mare" would have a colt running by her side. Most of the thefts were committed in the spring or autumn. In the former season the horses were turned to feed upon the green grass that grew luxuriantly, and in autumn they would be in the finest condition, when they were fed on corn. The best of the drove were usually taken and passed from one station to another until they were sold in some distant market.

*Tragedy of Inlet Creek.*—It is a trite saying, and not unfrequently true, that "truth is stranger than fiction." And it is seldom that we are called upon to chronicle a combination of more thrilling events and bloody deeds than the following, which we are required to record, however painful may be the task.

There resided on the old stage road at the crossing over Inlet creek, a few miles below the present site of the city of Amboy, a family by the name of Croft. They owned the toll-gate which stood at the north end of the corduroy bridge across the above creek and adjacent swamp. In the spring of 1848 a jew peddler passing through the country engaged to Mr. Croft as a farm laborer for half a month. After the expiration of the time, which occurred on the 29th of May, the stranger was never seen or heard of by the neighbors. On the 3d of June, five days after the disappearance of the peddler, Mr. Croft visited the land office and entered a tract of land. These circumstances may have been sufficient to cause a just suspicion in the neighborhood. There being no traces of a possible tragedy, the matter was soon lost sight of until the following summer, when other circumstances awakened unpleasant reflections in the minds of the neighbors. A young woman who had been living with the Croft family for some time, including the stay of the peddler above mentioned, was left by Mrs. Croft in the care of the household affairs while the latter was absent on a visit. It was in the

time of hay gathering, and Mr. Croft was assisted by four of his neighbors, among whom was one man commonly known by the name of "Sam Patch." The young woman was cooking for the harvest hands. On a certain day she suddenly disappeared. Mr. Croft walked about the premises calling for the missing one, feigning great anxiety and surprise. After a few days, there being no tidings of the whereabouts of the young woman, a search was made by the neighbors, lasting three days, when the body was found in a pond in the neighborhood in the presence of hundreds of citizens of the county who had participated in the search. Mr. James Goble, then sheriff of Lee county, being present, at once arrested Mr. Croft and lodged him in the county jail at Dixon. On the approach of the next session of court an officer visited the home of the said "Sam Patch" to cause him to appear before the court to give testimony in the above case. Seeing the officer approaching his house, he fled with gun in hand to the corn-field, where he shot himself and soon expired. Mrs. Croft having returned home was a frequent visitor to the jail in which her husband was incarcerated, having secured most of the money he had about him, with a gold watch and chain. Becoming despondent, the culprit cut his throat with his razor, which he had in his cell, and paid the terrible penalty of his crime. Soon after this one of the neighbors who was assisting Mr. Croft on the day of the murder of the young woman, as he was returning home from Dixon stopped at the house of Mr. Meeks to quench his thirst and was suddenly taken ill and expired. One of the two surviving members of that party soon afterward died in La Salle, leaving but one of the six, including the unfortunate girl, who composed that harvesting party. The first fell by the hand of the murderer; two by their own hand, to evade the just retribution of the law; and one died probably from poison. The cause of the death of the fifth is not known to the writer.

*Tragedy at Franklin Grove.*—In 1848 or 1849 a Norwegian living at Franklin Grove was visited by a friend of the same nationality who purposed spending the night with him. They occupied the same bed, and after falling asleep an assassin entered the room and with an ax dispatched both men in their bed, where they were afterward found horribly mutilated and bathed in their own blood. The murder was supposed to have been committed for the purpose of robbery, as the man residing there was reputed to have had money in his possession, whom the robber doubtless expected to find alone. The perpetrator of the bloody deed was never detected, but was believed to be connected with the "Banditti of the Prairie," to which reference is made above.

In the winter of 1844-5 it was "communicated to the gang," says Bonny, "that a Mr. Mulford, in Ogle county, had in his possession a



*Abram Brown*





large amount of money that he had recently received from the State of New York. This was communicated by the friends of the gang at Washington Grove. The amount of money in possession of Mr. Mulford was believed to be \$1,400, a prize which the gang made preparations to secure. One of their number visited the home of Mr. Mulford under the assumed name of Harris, assuming to be a laborer seeking employment. After making some observations about the house he retired, on promise that he would return again. A few nights following three men entered Mr. Mulford's house armed with pistols and knives. On entering the house, one seized a loaded rifle which stood in one corner of the room, and aiming at Mr. Mulford threatened him and his wife, who lay at his side, if they should attempt to rise or give an alarm, and demanded of Mr. Mulford his money.

After seizing about \$400, which Mr. Mulford surrendered to them, they demanded more, with threats of death if denied. He having repeatedly assured them that he had no more, they placed one at the door and one at the bedside as guards, while the third one, whom Mrs. Mulford recognized as Harris, made search for the desired treasure. Going to a bureau in the room, he commenced shaking out the linen which had been carefully folded away. Mrs. Mulford being greatly disturbed by the careless manner in which her linen was handled, though placed in the greatest peril, could not remain quiet, but addressed the robber: 'Mr. Harris, you conduct yourself very differently from what you did the other day when you wished to obtain employment.' "

"The unveiled robber sprang to his feet with a loud oath, surprised at the daring of the defenseless and heroic woman, and with eyes flashing with rage he sprang for the bedside, and drawing his bowie-knife waved it above her head with threats of immediate death if she would utter another word while they were in the house. Then turning to his comrades he said: 'Boys, I must be missing. I'm known, and this is no place for me; a minute more and I am off!' Hastily closing the search, and warning Mr. Mulford not to follow them, the unwelcome visitors were off, and nothing could be learned of them since, though diligent search was made. In the following year, 1845, one West, of Lee county, on being arrested, turned state's evidence, which led to the arrest and conviction of Bridge and Oliver as accessory to this robbery."

In the fall of 1844 a peddler by the name of Miller was robbed of a large amount of goods at Troy Grove, for which the man West, referred to above, was arrested, which led to an exposure of the gang and their operations, implicating parties in Lee and Ogle counties. He gave particulars of the robbery of the stage near Rockford, before

mentioned, and of the intended robbery of the land office at Dixon. He accused one Fox, alias Sutton, and John Baker of having committed the robbery at Troy Grove, and that the goods had been secreted at Inlet Grove, and afterward taken to Iowa. He also claimed that Fox and Birch, alias Blecker alias Harris, committed the robbery at Inlet Grove which had caused so much trouble to some of the citizens, whom the robbers had imitated so perfectly as to disguise their own identity.

Prior to this, Esquire Hascal, a merchant at Inlet Grove, had been robbed of money deposited in a small trunk which he kept under his bed at night. This trunk was extracted from its accustomed place one dark, stormy night; the robber entering the house on his hands and knees, then lying flat upon the floor, he cautiously, and serpent-like, made his way to the bedside, where Mr. and Mrs. Hascal lay engaged in conversation while the thunderstorm was raging without. He would lay quietly until a clap of thunder would come, when he would push himself forward unheard until he grasped the trunk and crawled his way out carrying the prize with him. This robbery West also set to the credit of Fox. This man was a noted member of the gang, and extended his operations from the Alleghanies to the Rocky Mountains, and was one of the shrewdest of the clan, and one whom Mr. Bonney found the most difficult to capture.

In 1862 the board of supervisors, at the September term, passed the following resolution :

*Resolved*, That it is the bounden duty of every good and law-abiding citizen in this county to aid, all that lies in his power, in the suppression of crime and theft; and any person or persons rendering good and valuable service to the county by informing the sheriff, or any other officer of the law, of the whereabouts of stolen property, or information that will bring to justice criminals in this or adjoining counties, should and will be suitably rewarded by this county."

On the 22d of June, 1863, a " Vigilance Society " was organized for the purpose of detecting and bringing to justice thieves, and to reclaim and restore stolen property.

In March, 1852, the village of Dixon was thrown into considerable excitement over the continued brutality of a fellow named Hamill, upon a young girl living at his house near Dixon. Several citizens visited his house and took the girl from him and brought her to town where the circuit court was in session, and her story listened to. The next day the fellow had the " cheek " to come to town, and it produced such indignation in the community that he was treated to a liberal supply of tar and feathers.

At the May term, 1877, of the circuit court of Lee county, the

grand jury found a bill of indictment against Samuel H. McGhee, of said county, for the murder of Samantha H. McGhee, his wife. The court ordered the arrest of said McGhee under capias, returnable forthwith, and that he be held without bail. The bill was found upon the testimony of thirty-four witnesses who were subpoenaed for the trial.

When the case was called, May 29, for hearing before the court, the ordinary course of pleading was deviated from in favor of the defendant, who by his counsel moved the court to quash said indictment, which motion, after being argued, was overruled by the court. The prisoner was remanded to the county jail to await trial, which was again called May 31, 1877. The trial lasted twelve days, and on June 13 the jury returned a verdict of guilty, and fixed his penalty at fourteen years in the State Penitentiary. On the following day a motion was made for a new trial, which was refused by the court. The defendant, by his counsel, moved the court to arrest judgment upon said judgment, which the court refused, to which refusal the defendant excepted, and on his motion was given thirty days to file his bill of exceptions. He was duly delivered into the custody of the warden of the State Penitentiary at Joliet, to serve his time of imprisonment.

In the following July term of the board of supervisors for the county of Lee they appropriated five hundred dollars to the payment of William Barge, Esq., for prosecuting the above case to a successful issue.

#### THE CITY OF DIXON.

In sketching a historical picture of the city of Dixon as the county seat of Lee county, we must refer the reader to the chapter on the early history of the county for the first settlements of what is now embraced in Lee county.

We begin the history of the city at the first survey of the original village, in the latter part of 1834 or in the early part of 1835. The evidence in this matter is not sufficiently definite at this recent date to warrant a positive assertion as to the exact time of the laying out of the first plat. This was done by Mr. John Dixon, who secured the services of surveyor Bennett, of Galena, to make the survey. At this time there were not the rudiments of a town; but the acute eye of Mr. John Dixon caught a glimpse of the possibilities of the future, and took the initiatory steps toward the building of homes on his ground at the ferry.

The original plat "included a tract of forty acres of land extending from the river to half a block south of Third street, and from a half block east of Ottawa to a half block west of Peoria streets."



In the spring of 1836 the first store is said to have been opened by Messrs. Chapman & Hamilton in the addition Mr. John Dixon built to the Ogee house. It is due the writer and just to history to state just here that statements are contradictory as to the first store, as there are two or three claimants for the honor; this is one of the many vexations that meet the historian. This conflict of statement may arise from the class of goods opened to the public, and the statement is accepted as given upon the supposition that it was a grocery and notion stock.

In the same year occurred the first death and the preaching of the first sermon in the embryo city. The first sermon was preached in the spring of this year, by Rev. James McKean, a Methodist preacher; and the death above mentioned was that of a Mr. Lefferty, which occurred in the autumn of the same season, and was the first interment in the cemetery. According to Mr. John K. Robinson's statement, the first sermon was preached two years previous by a Methodist missionary named Segg.

On September 3, 1836, Dr. Oliver Everett arrived in Dixon, where he still resides, and found a village of five dwellings, a blacksmith shop, and a post-office. The dwellings consisted of four cabins and one frame, the latter having been built by a Mr. Hamilton during the preceding year (1835). The blacksmith shop was occupied by a lone gentleman, whose bachelorship occupied a lean-to at one end of his shop as a dwelling. Though originally it was a one-story building, after the grading of the streets a basement was put under it, giving it the imposing appearance of a two-story superstructure. Father Dixon's house stood "two or three rods north of Main street and on the west of what is now Peoria street. Dr. Forrest's log cabin was on the corner of Water and Ottawa streets; and one block farther west was Col. Johnson's boarding house, a log building. "These, with several uncovered frames in different parts of the place, constituted the entire town of Dixon in the fall of 1836." The inhabitants of the town at that time were James P. Dixon, Peter McKenney, Samuel Johnson, Jude W. Hamilton, James B. Barr, and E. W. Hines, and their families. Those without families were Dr. Oliver Everett, Smith Gilbraith, John Wilson, and Daniel B. McKenney. At one time in 1836 there were but four families in Dixon, two of the previous six having left.

There was a log house on the corner of Galena and Water streets, where the first death occurred as before stated. In 1837 James Wilson's smith-shop was converted into a public building for which the walls were plastered and a floor laid. In this building the first Ogle county court was held, which county then embraced the county of Lee:

and after this the engineer of the "internal improvement" corps occupied it. At this time Dixon was an important station on the stage route from Peoria to Galena. Other lines centered here from different parts of the state connecting with the main line to Galena,—the Chicago, the Ottawa, and the Peoria lines. This gave Dixon a prominence in connection with the traveling public, and to meet the public demand two hotels were erected in 1836 and 1837. The first was the Western Hotel, which was followed by the Rock River House by Messrs. Crowell & Wilson. The travel was so great at that time to and from the mines, old citizens tell us, that frequently it was almost impossible to find room in the hotels, while many would be compelled to take a "shake-down" on the floor. Not unfrequently provisions would be at short rations, as it was frequently quite difficult to obtain supplies, which had to be conveyed from a great distance and they were liable to be destroyed by storm and flood. The Winnebago waters were most dreaded, as its bed was swampy and treacherous, while it was subject to high freshets. Teams had to swim the swollen waters, when the cargo would become soaked with the muddy waters and greatly damaged for culinary purposes.

In 1837 Messrs. Boardman & Bowen opened the first dry-goods store in Dixon on the corner of River and Galena streets. In the same year a petition was presented asking the commissioners to refuse to grant license to keep groceries (saloons) in the town of Dixon. The following entry was made:

*Ordered*, That the clerk shall not grant to any person or persons license to keep grocery in the town of Dixon.

In the same year the first school building was erected by the fund contributed by individuals. This was a small frame structure, and in it a school was opened in the following year, 1838. This building was the public hall for town, court and school purposes until 1840.

On May 31, 1839, Messrs. D. G. Salisbury, E. H. Nichols and L. G. Butter, who were appointed commissioners to locate the county seat, met in Dixon to discharge the duties submitted to their trust. After a careful consideration of the location of Dixon, its advantages, and the pledges of its citizens to contribute to the building of the county court-house and jail, the stakes were driven for the location of the county seat where the court-house now stands.

In 1840 the court-house was built at an expense of \$7,000, donated by the citizens, "Father" Dixon donating eighty acres of land which has since become a part of the town plat. The United States land office was transferred from Galena to Dixon this year, Col. John De-ment, receiver. On the third Monday in April, 1840, first circuit court opened, Judge Stone of Galena, presiding. On October 28, 1840,

Joseph Crawford extended the original survey of the plat of the town of Dixon.

In 1841 Mr. J. T. Little erected the building on Water street, now occupied by D. W. McKinney & Co., as a livery stable, and occupied it as a dry-goods store, under the firm of Messrs. Little & Brooks, for a number of years, when they were succeeded by Messrs. Webb, Rogers & Woodruff. Water street was then known as River street, and was formerly the leading business street of the town.

In the same year the land-office building was erected on the corner of Second and Ottawa streets. The building is of stone, and is still standing. Dixon was spoken of at that time as a village of some importance, and contained many "neat dwellings."

In 1843 the village gave 40 votes for incorporation. During the same year the first church edifice was erected in the village, and the Methodist church on Second street, now known as the "Old High School building." At this time, one writer speaking of Dixon said, "There was a town here only in name; there were as yet but few attractions in the place that would of themselves create a town. The great drawback was the wild and unsettled condition of the country. There was as yet no milling advantages; the settlers in and around the embryo city were compelled to go long distances for flour, and Chicago was the nearest market, and many times, a week would be consumed in transporting one wagon load of grain, and oftentimes the expense of this transportation would consume the entire amount received for the products sold. But it was the "county seat," and with a firm belief in the future proud destiny of the place, people located here."

In 1845 the village reached a population of 400, and had four religious denominations: Methodist, Baptist, Episcopal, and Congregational; a select and one district school, with an attendance of seventy-five pupils in the two schools. There were at this time twenty-seven establishments doing business in the usual lines represented in a country town.

In the autumn of 1846 the erection of the first brick building was commenced. This was on Main street, and is now the first building west of the Lee County National Bank. The west half was built by Horace and James Benjamin, and the east half by A. F. Murphy. The next brick building in Dixon was the one owned by D. B. McKinney, on the south side of Main street, and was built two or three years later.

"Up to 1850 Dixon improved but slowly, as did also the county, or indeed throughout the northern part of the state. The commonwealth was embarrassed with indebtedness and had but little credit, occasioned by the vast appropriations made for the internal improve-

ments of the state. Heavy taxation, suspension of immigration, and the languishing state of commerce and agriculture, arrested the growth of the town."

In the year 1850, however, Dixon received an impetus from the beginning of the hydraulic works. The dam was erected across the river, and the prospect of a manufacturing town infused new life to all classes of business.

A saw-mill was placed on the north side of the river the same year, and in 1851 the erection of a large flouring mill was commenced on the south side. These were soon followed by other mills, foundry and machine shops. A writer made mention of Dixon at this time in the following happy manner:

"There is, moreover, a dam across the river at this place, furnishing one of the best water-powers in all the state. A saw-mill is already in operation on one bank and a large flouring-mill is about to be erected on the other. Measures are also being taken to construct a bridge over the river at this point, which is now crossed by a good rope ferry-boat, which is in operation night and day. These considerations, together with the fact that several stores and dwellings are now in progress of erection, that stages meet here from almost every direction, and that a branch of the Central road is soon to pass through this town to Galena, conspire to render Dixon one of the most desirable places of residence in the western country. Capitalists and others, we think, would find it to their interests to make us a visit, with a view to investment and location."

"In May, 1851, the population of Dixon was estimated at 700 or 800. There was then in the thriving village a printing office, eight or ten stores, "and several professional men and mechanics in all departments of trade;" two church buildings, three hotels, a livery stable and a market. From this time until the war Dixon improved with great rapidity. The subject of the prospective Central railroad was already being agitated by the newspaper, and the town and its prospects became more widely known. Those who were here at that day will remember the great thrill of excitement that electrified the village when they beheld the engineers approaching, and the many wonderful predictions that were made of the future progress of Dixon. With great suspense did the people watch the progress of this road, fearful at every delay that it might fall through and ruin the fair prospects of the promising town, but, by a degree of patience commendable in the extreme, they waited long, until at last they were gladdened by the news that track-laying had been commenced, with the assurance that it would be pushed forward with all possible diligence."

During the period extending from 1850 to 1860 or '61, the town



of Dixon improved with great rapidity, until the breaking out of the war arrested the tide of immigration to the county, and retarded the growth of the town.

In 1852 the flouring-mill of Messrs. Brooks, Dement & Daley commenced grinding corn, and by April 1 they were running four run of stone; two for custom and two for merchant work. This mill cost \$15,000. In the following year (1853) the Nachusa House was erected, adding greatly to the improvement of the town.

On July 31, 1852, it was written of Dixon: "Our town is improving with great rapidity; there are over thirty dwellings in course of erection; and would be many more if there were mechanics here to put them up. A large stone hotel is being rapidly completed, and a large number are employed on the grist-mill being built on the south side of the river."

On the first Tuesday of March, 1853, the first board of trustees consisted of John Dixon, A. L. Porter, P. M. Alexander, L. Wood, and L. Wynkoop.

Beginning the following year, 1854, there were many indications of decided prosperity. During this year the Washington hotel was built on the corner of Ottawa and Main streets.

To give to the reader an idea of the true patriotism of the citizens of Dixon, we insert the following description of a Fourth of July celebration: "July 4, 1854. Never did we see this day pass off with more becoming style than did the Fourth of July in 1854 in our town. At eleven o'clock a procession was formed and marched to the beautiful grove in the court-house square, where, after listening to prayer by Rev. Mr. Baume, reading of the declaration of independence by J. K. Rodgers, they were treated to an oration delivered by Prof. Pinckney, of Mount Morris. Much credit is due to the ladies and gentlemen of the choir and to the musicians for the part they played. And particularly the trio of young men who sang Yankee Doodle "without the variations." Then came the sumptuous dinner at the Nachusa house. After this we supposed the day's performance at an end; but no, dear reader, every moment of that day, the pride of the American people, was to be celebrated. For our part we were surprised when we heard the soul-cheering rattle of the drums, and the patriotic scream of the fife. How those martial strains did swell the already full hearts of all. With what pride and joy that column swept down the streets, ever and anon their deafening cheers seemed to swell to the very heavens.

"Night came on, and brought a large concourse of people to the public square to witness the fireworks. For an hour the air was filled with the fiery missiles, and the shouts of the immense mass of people.

"Exchange Hall being lighted up, the young and gay there congregated, and had as pleasant party as could be got up in any country."

The month of July had not passed, however, before the rejoicing of Independence day was shrouded in the deepest lamentation for those who had fallen victims to the cholera scourge of that year of sad memory. A writer of July 27, 1854, referring to this epidemic, said, "Death in its most frightful form swept through our heretofore healthy town like an avalanche, carrying away within twenty-four hours eighteen souls. It is a sad duty we are called upon to perform,—that of recording the death of some of our best citizens, who but a few days ago were among us sharing the pleasures and vicissitudes of this world. Ah, how true it is that 'in the midst of life we are in death.' But we all have reason to thank our Eternal Creator that in the midst of death we have life."

There had been a few deaths from cholera previous to this, among them Mrs. Alanson Smith, and two or three railroad hands, but it made its appearance as an epidemic July 21. On Saturday the 22d the cholera broke out in full force, and during Saturday night large numbers of the inhabitants left town to go into the country. The next day fourteen persons lay dead in the town. Not a sound, on that mournful Sabbath day, save that made by the undertaker's hammer, disturbed the quiet of the death-like village.

Here is a list of the deaths during this epidemic, made out by Drs. Everett and Abbott: Mrs. Patrick Duffee and child, Michael Harris, Mrs. Jacob Craver, Wm. Lahee, Daniel Brookner and wife and Daniel Brookner, jr., John Finley, Joseph Cleaver (postmaster), — Cleaver (cousin to Joseph), John Keenan, Mrs. Cooley, — Marsh, Mrs. Owen's child, John Connells, John Barnes, Elijah Dixon, Wm. Patrick, Benj. Vann, Mrs. Scheer, Cyrus Kimball and wife, Israel Evans, Mrs. Catharine Dailey, Mr. Peck, Edward Hamlin, Roderick McKenzie and wife, Mrs. Huff, Mr. Jones, Mrs. C. Johnson, Owen Gallinger, and E. Boswick; making in all thirty-four deaths between July 20 and August 7.

By the coming autumn, however, the Dixon "Telegraph," under date of September 7, said: "So rapidly is the march of progress in our town that we are hardly able to keep our readers advised of all the improvements that are going on in our midst. There are the three-story brick buildings on Water street, Col. Dement's machine shop, the race, etc. There are now in course of construction three fine churches, Methodist (the one occupied now), Roman Catholic, and Lutheran. P. M. Alexander and J. B. Brooks are also erecting a couple of fine brick buildings on Galena street."

On October 19, same fall, the Dixon "Transcript" made its appear-

ance, under the editorship of Charles Allen, and continued until January 1857, and then disappeared.

On April 9, 1855, Messrs. Jerome Hellenbeck and J. H. Cropsey commenced the erection of a sash, door and blind factory on Third street between Peoria and Market streets. The main building (now occupied by Vann & Means) was four stories high, 32×64 feet, with an engine house 25×32 feet.

In August, 1855, a business directory printed in the "Daily Whisper," August 13, contains the following list of business men and the departments they were engaged in. Counsellors-at-law—F. R. Danna, J. V. Eustace, Heaton & Atherton, J. D. Mackay, S. G. Patrick, F. A. Soule, Edward Southwick, and John Stevens. Physicians and Surgeons—N. W. Abbott, Oliver Everett, G. W. Holdridge, G. W. Phillips, C. D. Pratt, C. S. Younglove; C. J. Reynolds, dentist. Bankers and Brokers—S. & H. T. Noble, Robertson, Eells & Co., E. B. Stiles; real estate, Cyrus Aldrich, Steadman & Williams. Druggists—J. B. Nash, Townsend & Sheffield. Books and Stationary—J. C. Mead. Notaries public—E. W. Hine, F. A. Soule. Daguerrean artists—Beardsley & Co., J. B. Waxham; Ferris Finch, portrait painter. Sash, door and blind factories—Christopher Brookner, Cropsey, Hellenbeck & Williams. Boots and shoes—Joseph Smalley, William Vann. Carpenters and builders, such as kept shops—Henry Brookner, B. F. Cram, Crawford & Shellhamer, J. M. Graham, Herrick & Hanson, A. S. Maxwell, Wynkoop & Warner; not located, about twenty. Cabinet ware—G. W. Baker, Noah & John Brooks. Blacksmiths—J. M. Cropsey, Isaac Dubois, Albert Martin, Wertman & Carter; H. Logan, gunsmith. Wagon and Carriage makers—J. Q. Adams, J. H. Richardson, Henry Schutts. Jewelers—B. H. Bacon, Josiah Heath. Marble yard—Parker & Porter. Mills—Brooks & Bailey (flour), N. G. H. Morrill (lessee of saw-mill). Bakers—Charles Hatch, Charles Reynolds. Livery stables—Frederick McKenney, Henry McKenney, Aaron L. Porter. Harness and leather—James & Andrew Benjamin, H. O. Kelsey, George B. Stiles. Foundry and machine shops—Dement & Farrell (erecting). Barbers—Anthony Julien, Z. Demory. Tailors—W. J. Carpenter, D. L. Evans, F. Decamp, S. T. Hotchkiss. General merchandise—Oscar F. Ayres, B. F. Burr, James L. Camp, Geo. R. McKenney, John P. Smith, VanEpps & Ashley, Varney & Gilman, Henry & Orlando Wortendyke. Clothing—Ely & Rice, Fuller & Rosenfeld, A. T. Murphy, J. Peizer, E. Petersberger. Groceries—Isaac Appler, Nathan & James Barnes, Andrew Brison, Bronson & Dresser, Andrew Brubaker, James Davis & Bro., Robert Dyke, William Johnson, J. L. Jones & Co., Henry

Leavitt, James McKenney, B. H. Stewart, Richard Woodyat. Hardware — Alexander, Howell & Co., John Farrell, George L. Herrick, Jonas Johnson. Hats and Caps — Jason C. Ayres. Millinery — Miss M. J. Bartlett, Mrs. Cornish, Mrs. Dickson. Lumber, sash, doors, cement, etc. — Flint & Loomis, Gallup & Judd, Haldane & Co., Isaac Means, Smith & Chipman, S. K. Upham & Co. Forwarding and commission — Champion Fuller, Murphy & Woodruff, Smith & Chipman. Hotels — Mansion, A. Smith; Nachusa House, Jerome Porter; Warshington, Henry Remmers.

In 1855 the eyes of the people of Dixon beheld, in reality, the locomotive and heard its welcome scream upon two roads instead of one, as the "Dixon Air Line" had reached Dixon about the same time. With the approach of the railroads came many strangers from near and far. It stimulated trade, and had a reviving influence everywhere. The prosperity of the town was no longer a matter of conjecture, but an established fact. In August of this year there were one hundred and twenty-eight places of business occupying stores, offices, shops, etc., among them two printing offices, four hotels, two planing-mills, a saw-mill, foundry and machine shop, and a flouring mill in Dixon. Before the close of 1855 the population of the town had increased to 3,000. Another feature worthy of note is the relative character of the buildings erected before and after the railways reached here. The ideas of the people became enlarged, and with that growth came pride — pride in the appearance of their dwellings and places of business. The spirit of rivalry between towns and villages, too, was high, and as the result of this rivalry stimulated into life by the railways we point with pardonable pride to our public buildings, business blocks and elegant residences.

All this growth and improvement was not the work of ill-advised speculation, nor the result of unwarranted ambition by our citizens, but the needs of the place called for it for the accommodation of the new comers that were constantly arriving and for the increased trade that naturally found its way to our city. There were one hundred and thirty buildings erected in Dixon during the year 1855.

September 30 of this year the Evangelical Lutheran church was dedicated. This building was torn down in 1880; it stood near James A. Hawley's residence.

November 5 a school opened in the new union school-house on Peoria street. This building cost \$6,000, and was a two-story brick, 33×45 feet. It stood on the ground now occupied by J. C. Ayres' residence. The old wooden desks were discarded at this time and the first patent school furniture introduced into our schools.

During September of the same autumn a three-story brick build-



ing on Galena street was built by H. Webb, and Davis & Bro's building on the corner of Hennepin and Main streets; Nash and Noble's four-story brick (Union Hall), and Ely & Rice's three-story brick on Main street, and nearly a score of other buildings were built.

On January 16, 1856, a building owned by Mrs. Patrick, on the corner of Ottawa and Main streets, burned down at midnight, destroying about \$3,000 worth of law books and papers for S. G. Patrick. Herrick's block, now owned by J. C. Ayres, was erected in the same year. The beginning of this year (January 3, 1856) was noted for the organization of an Anti-Nebraska Association; the object of which was to promote the settlement of Kansas by assisting bona-fide emigrants to that territory; and at a public meeting and by private solicitation \$1,000 was subscribed by the citizens for this purpose.

The improvements of Dixon during 1857 were anticipated by the appearance of a new satellite in the literary political world called the "Dixon Republican," edited and published by Beckwith & Legget; it appeared about January 15, 1857. It was soon absorbed, however, by the "Telegraph," and disappeared. In the spring of this year a joint stock company was formed with a capital of \$20,000, for the erection of a starch factory. The building was erected in West Dixon, on the bank of the river; but it was never entirely finished. It was a stone structure, the main building 100 x 62 feet, and two stories high. In July of the same year the corner stone of the Union Eagle Works, was laid under the inspiring influence of music and oratorical eloquence. These works were established between the Central and Northwestern depots. April 2, 1857, the machine shops of Robinson & Randall opposite the Dixon Mills commenced business.

1858 was noted for the defeat of the proposed city charter. The first ballot was cast by the citizens on the proposed document in February, when it was rejected by 96 for with 279 against. Again on April 18 it was defeated by a vote of 219 for with 231 against. The instrument being offensive to the people, they refused to accept it. The "Telegraph," in its comments on the document, said: "It has created a greater sensation among our citizens than did the great magna charta among the Britons at the time of John of charter fame. The obnoxious provisions will have to be removed before our people will consent to its adoption." The question of license to sell ardent spirits was agitating the public mind, and it seems that the proposed document was radically changed, as on December 4 it was adopted at a special election.

Dixon had become a central point for the grain and produce market, and in the autumn of 1858 the stone warehouse of Joseph Gates, which stood near the Central depot burst out one end with the pressure

of grain, causing great loss to the proprietors of both building and stock. In the summer of this year (1858) Mr. W. C. VanOsdel erected a three-story sash and blind factory in the west end of Dement Town. In 1860 it was converted into a sorghum mill, which run about a year when it was abandoned and the building removed.

*City Organization.*—The year 1859 is memorable to the citizens of Dixon as the time of her transition from a town to the dignity of a city. A writer on Dixon history says: "From 1853 to 1859 Dixon luxuriated in the name of 'town.' The ambition of our citizens was aroused to such a pitch that the name of town was too insignificant, and consequently a charter was obtained from the state legislature, and the city was organized by the election of city officers, March 7, 1859. And now a new order of things was inaugurated. More attention was paid to laying and repairing sidewalks, and keeping the streets in good condition, and initial steps were taken toward a more complete system of public schools than the place had before enjoyed.

"The incorporation of Dixon was certainly a step in the right direction. It was a logical conclusion destined to follow a wise forethought and careful management. Perhaps none could take more pride in the consummation of this wise step than Father Dixon, who had lived to see advancement stamped upon each succeeding year, until the seal of 'success' was placed upon the enterprise commenced thirty-nine years before."

"The shrieking locomotive thunders over the bluff where once the buffalo paused to look down upon the humble home of the pioneer; the red deer made his lair under the shade of giant oaks where now are busy streets; and where a rude but brave soldiery once pitched their tents in the Indian war is now the silent city of the dead, in whose narrow habitations rest the voiceless forms of those whose once busy hands and willing hearts reared for us the homes and secured for us the privileges which we now enjoy. The buffalo, the red man, the pioneer, the children of the white-haired, and finally Nachusa himself, have passed away as a dream; the busy life throbs on, but they are among the things of the past."

March 7, 1859, the city was organized by the election of city officers. The aldermen elected were W. H. Van Epps and Joseph Crawford for the first ward; H. E. Williams and R. H. Robinson for the second ward; William Barge and A. A. Benjamin for the third ward; W. A. Hoisington and William Peacock for the fourth ward. A. P. Curry was elected city marshal, and C. V. Tenney police justice. Col. John Dement, the mayor elect, failing to qualify, Joseph Crawford was appointed acting mayor by the council and an election was ordered for April 4, when A. C. Steadman was chosen to the vacancy

of that office. The result upon the license question stood 297 against and 171 for license. A. C. Steadman was elected mayor in 1860. Those following were G. L. Herriek in 1861, James B. Charters in 1862, Oliver Everett in 1863, James K. Edsall in 1864, Person Cheney, jr., in 1865 and 1866, Andrew McPherran in 1867 and 1868, John Dement from 1869 to 1872 inclusive, Joseph Crawford in 1873, 1874 and 1875, James A. Hawley in 1876 and 1877, John Dement in 1878 and 1879, and J. V. Thomas in 1880.

During this year the city was visited by the first great conflagration of its history, in which there were seventeen buildings destroyed in the business part of the city, sweeping up both sides of Main street for more than half a block, causing a loss of over \$30,000. During this year Col. John Dement made some change in his plow factory, and removed it to the water-power. In the autumn of 1859 the two factories and a Mr. Brookner's saw-mill, which stood on the north side of the river near the dam, were under-washed by the current at the river's brink; and while the buildings were slowly moving toward the river, where the water was twenty feet deep, the machinery and everything movable were taken out and the buildings set on fire to save the two bridges below, which it was thought would be damaged by the descent of the timbers against them.

In August of this year Messrs. Cheney & Co. vacated their steam flouring-mill on Third street, and started a mill in the new building which they purchased of Messrs. Godfrey, Jerome & Co. for \$28,000.

It was chronicled on January 17, 1861: "Business in town wears a better appearance since the completion of the free bridge. The mills of William Uhl and Beckers & Underwood are doing a splendid business; the plow factory of Col. Dement is turning out plows rapidly; the foundry is in successful blast. Merchants and clerks are busy and everything wears a cheerful aspect, notwithstanding the gloomy forebodings of some who fear fatal consequences to the business of the country from the southern civil commotions."

During the period of the war manufacturing interests made but little advancement in this city. In 1864 Messrs. Fargo, Pratt & Co. commenced the manufacture of platform scales. Other manufactories were successfully worked during the dark days of the rebellion; but the absorbing interest of the country, the scarcity of laborers, the small demand for certain products of the industry of the country, affected Dixon as every other inland town in the country. But no sooner had the war closed and the country had returned to the employment of peace than the spirit of enterprise was again manifest in Dixon.

On the 9th of August, 1866, the Bucklin File Manufacturing Company was incorporated with a capital of \$100,000. A large stone

building  $40 \times 140$  feet was erected, and in May, 1867, the company commenced operations in their new building, but the business failed in less than a year from defects in the Bucklin patent. In the following January (1868) John Stanley and Joseph Ogle bought some of the tools and commenced the manufacture of hand-cut files. In the autumn of 1867 Messrs. Severance & Cheney commenced the manufacture of platform scales, which factory changed hands in July 1869; John T. Cheney and John P. Hutchinson became the manufacturers of the scales which has since been known as the "Victor." In the same year (1867) the Masonic block, Riley & Weigle's building, S. W. Jones' building on the corner of Main and Hennepin streets, and Van-Epps' brick block adjoining the Exchange block on the east, were erected.

In October, 1868, Theron Cumins and H. T. Noble commenced the repairs of the old factory buildings between the depots, preparatory to removing the plow works from Grand Detour to this location. The buildings were enlarged and operations commenced the following spring.

In December, 1870, the Northwestern Windmill Works of Thomas C. Little & Co., on the north side of the river, began work.

In this year (1870) the census of Dixon was 4,054, and of Lee county 27,252. In this year was commenced the city-hall building for the use of the fire department, and was completed in January of the next year.

In September, 1871, the Dixon National Bank was organized by the election of officers: H. B. Jenks was elected president, John Dement vice-president, and H. S. Lucas cashier. The following year (1872) the new jail was built, an account of which may be found in the following pages.

In March, 1873, the Knitting Mills were burned, being an entire loss of \$25,000. This was a calamity to Dixon and of great loss to the proprietors. Damage was also done to Messrs. Becker & Underwood's flouring-mills by fire in December of the same year.

During this year the Dixon Opera House was erected by Messrs. H. H. Stevens, F. A. Truman, J. D. Crabtree, and W. G. Stevens. It was opened on the 30th of November by the Payson English Opera Company.

In the following year (December 22, 1874) the Western Excelsior Gas Company began the manufacturing of gas for the lighting of the city. The charter of this company was repealed, and on May 10, 1879, the city council granted J. D. Patton the right to establish gas-works in Dixon.

On the 26th of December of this year is recorded the death of Judge W. H. Heaton, who died in Chicago, aged sixty-three years. He



came to Dixon about 1840 and had been a resident there ever since. A few months before his death he was promoted from the office of judge of the circuit court to the position of chief justice of the appellate court of Chicago district.

On April 8, 1880, occurred the most disastrous fire recorded in Dixon, sweeping away the mills at the water-power, for a description of which we refer the reader to the fire record in this volume. In the following year large flouring-mills were erected near the ruins of the former.

*Distinguished Visitors.*—Dixon has been favored at various times by distinguished men and women of the country. Beginning with the earliest days of the country now occupied by Dixon, we meet with the names of Lincoln, Anderson, Taylor, the notorious Davis, and a score of men who visited the present site of Dixon, as described in connection with the Black Hawk war in this book. Since the improvement of the country, and the growth of Dixon to city proportions, she has been visited by many of the most distinguished literary characters of the country. John B. Gough, the popular temperance lecturer, entertained the citizens of Dixon on the evening of January 6, 1857; Horace Greeley, on the 13th of the next month, and John G. Saxe, the poet, on December 30, gave a popular reading in Dixon. In the next year came Mrs. Macready with her literary entertainments; in February, 1859, Fred Douglass; in January, 1867, Schuyler Colfax; and in December, 1869, Mrs. Cady Stanton; all of whom lectured to the people of Dixon and vicinity. In January of 1870 Hon. Henry Vincent gave "Oliver Cromwell" to the Dixonites. Then followed musical entertainments by Philip Phillips in 1871; the Philharmonic Society, assisted by the Baker family, rendered the oratorio of "Queen Esther" in 1872; and on August 20, 21 and 22, 1873, a brass band jubilee was held in the fair grounds, which closed with a grand instrumental concert by the Northwestern Light Guard band, of Chicago. Then followed at various periods lectures by Prof. Swing, of Chicago; Olive Logan, Susan B. Anthony, Henry Ward Beecher, Dr. Dio Lewis, Hon. Geo. R. Wendling, and Theodore Tilton; the last in 1878.

*Location of Dixon.*—Dixon is situated on the Illinois Central railroad, at its crossing with the Chicago and Northwestern. It is ninety-eight miles from Chicago by rail. It is on two great trunk lines, one running north and south through the state, and the other running east and west, being the principal connecting link between the Union Pacific, and the many lines that diverge from Chicago. By either of the above roads we have rapid communication with the outside world, north, south, east and west. It is beautifully situated on the eastern bank of Rock river, about seventy-five miles from its mouth. The landscape on



Yours truly  
J. A. Hills



either side of the river at this point is truly delightful; consisting of gradual slopes and tables, for sixty rods back, covered with a somewhat sandy soil, and at this season a carpet of living green, thus furnishing sites for residences surpassed by few in any part of the world.

The town has a great advantage over many inland cities in the manner of scenery and picturesque beauty of location, and as it is on high and very rolling ground the drainage is excellent. To the north and south are broad stretches of fine prairie, smooth and unbroken, and adorned all over with the homes of thrifty farmers; to the east and west, and in fact, all around us, in the immediate vicinity, are beautiful hills, valleys, and plains. In the summer, when all nature is clothed in her most beautiful garments of variegated charms, it is hard to find a more pleasant place. Indeed this locality is obtaining quite a notoriety as a summer resort, and from the decks of the pleasure steamers that sail back and forth upon the waters of Rock river at this point, can be seen the white tents of numerous camping parties, peeping out from among the green foliage lining the banks and islands.

## DIXON PAPERS.

The first newspaper published in Dixon was the "Dixon Telegraph," by C. R. Fisk, May 1, 1851. That is the only paper which has stood the vicissitudes of time and convulsions of trade for many years, in this part of the country. The "Dixon Sun" and the "Western Farmer," though skillfully managed, and now on a firm foundation, are of comparatively recent date. The "Dixon Transcript" was commenced by Charles Allen, October 19, 1854; this paper struggled under financial embarrassments, with several changes of proprietors, until about January 1857, when it was discontinued. The "Dixon Republican," by Beckwith & Legget, commenced publication January 15, 1857. Mr. Shaw being the proprietor of the "Telegraph," a consolidation was effected under the name of the "Republican and Telegraph," Shaw & Beckwith, proprietors. Mr. Shaw wishing to try his skill in the gold mines, sold his interest to I. S. Boardman. Subsequently Mr. Beckwith sold his interest to the same party.

The "Dixon Monitor," by Charles Meigs, appeared January 25, 1858. It failed in the following November, when the "Dixon Advertiser," with an able corps of editors—Messrs. Eustace, Stiles and Atherton—arose upon its ruins. It did not prove a profitable investment, and was sold to Mr. Boardman, of the "Telegraph," in November 1859.

The "Lee County Democrat," by E. Giles, made its appearance June 25, 1868; subsequently the proprietorship passed into the hands of S. C. Postlewait. November 1, 1871, it passed into the hands of



W. M. Kennedy, who, March 6, 1872, changed its name to that of the "Dixon Sun."

The "Herald" made its appearance February 12, 1868, A. C. Bardwell, editor. In the fall of that year the "Telegraph" was passed over by Mr. I. S. Boardman to his two sons, Wm. H. and John D. Boardman, who, with Mr. Bardwell, organized a stock company, merging the two papers into one about November 22, 1869. Mr. Bardwell assumed the editorship and Wm. H. Boardman the business management. The "Telegraph" is now in the editorial charge of B. F. Shaw, Esq.

The "Rock River Farmer," a monthly, W. M. Kennedy, proprietor, was started in January 1871. This work soon assumed an excellent position, and its circulation became so extended that its proprietor was induced, in June 1875, to change its name to that of the "Western Farmer." It is the second of two monthlies of its character in successful operation in this state.

Aside from the foregoing, several papers not designed by their originators to be regularly issued made their appearance from time to time; among these were the "Daily Whisper," by John D. McKay; "Life in Dixon," illustrated, by J. C. Ayers, Noah Brooks and Mr. Curtis, appeared December 25, 1868; "Our Enterprise," by Wm. M. Kennedy, May 1870; and the "Gospel Trumpet," under the auspices of the Baptist church of this city. The first two, the "Whisper" and "Life in Dixon," displayed great ability, and produced a marked sensation.

*The Lee County National Bank.*—This bank was organized April 1, 1865, with a capital of \$100,000. The following gentlemen were elected to the board of directors, to-wit: Joseph Crawford, Joseph Utley, S. S. Williams, E. W. Pomeroy, Josiah Little, jr., Abijah Powers, and Wm. Uhl. Joseph Crawford was elected president, S. C. Eells, cashier, and John Coleman, assistant-cashier. Mr. Crawford and Mr. Eells still occupy their relation to the bank as above.

*The Dixon National Bank.*—In 1871 Messrs. A. B. Jenks, H. S. Lucas, John Dement, Wm. Kennedy, J. B. Pomeroy, I. S. Boardman, P. M. Alexander, A. Johnson, J. B. Charters, and others, applied for a charter for the Dixon National Bank, with a capital of \$100,000. The charter having been obtained the following officers were elected: Directors—H. B. Jenks, H. S. Lucas, John Dement, Quartus Ely, and James B. Charters. The present board of directors are Jas. A. Hawley, Theron Cumins, Jason C. Ayres, James B. Pomeroy, and A. C. Wayman. Jason C. Ayres, president, and Jas. A. Hawley, cashier.

*The Gas Company.*—The Western Excelsior Gas Company, by city

ordinance of September 18, 1874, commenced the manufacture and distribution of gas to the streets, business houses and homes of the citizens. The council ordered, January 8, 1877, the supply to the streets discontinued, and that the street lamps and posts be removed and stored away. May 10, 1877, the council granted J. D. Patton the right to establish gas-works in Dixon, which enterprise has since been known as the Dixon Gaslight Company, which has since furnished light to streets and private and public buildings.

## DIXON SCHOOLS.

The scholastic advantages presented by a town are always carefully "weighed in the balance," by heads of families who contemplate a change of residence. It is but natural, too, that this matter should be closely inquired into, as so much depends upon the facilities afforded the children in a community where the public schools are the alma maters of so large a proportion. The time has long since gone by when this matter could be ignored, and we are glad to be able to chronicle the fact that Illinois has taken the second position among the states in the educational cause.

No better evidence of the intelligence and enterprise which characterize the people of Dixon can be given than the tasteful and commodious public school buildings of the city, which are alike enduring monuments to their projectors and builders as well as ornaments to the city.

In the summer of 1837 the first school-house, a one-story frame building, 20×30 feet, was built on the lot east of Mrs. Truman's place; it was afterward removed to the lot south of D. W. McKinney's residence. This building for several years was used for a variety of purposes: school-house, court-house, town hall, meeting-house, etc.

In 1838 the first school was opened in the new building under the charge of H. Bicknell; it was supported by individual tuition fees. Previous to this Mr. Dixon had employed a Miss Butler, of Bureau county, to teach his own children. The teachers in charge of the school after Mr. Bicknell were Mr. Bowen a part of 1840; W. W. Heaton in winter of 1841-2. Among the pupils were Jane Ann Herrick (late Mrs. H. T. Noble), Geo. Foot, Mrs. D. B. McKinney. Miss Ophelia Loveland (Mrs. J. B. Brooks) taught the school during the summer of 1843. The district then included both sides of the river and up the river as far as Mr. Fuller's place, and yet the school numbered only about twenty-five pupils; among these were Miss Helen Williams, (now Mrs. Mulkins) and Miss Elizabeth and James Ayres, children of Oscar F. Ayres, of this city. Lorenzo Wood was teacher during the winter of 1843-4. Among the pupils were Miss Sybil C. Vanarnam

and Mrs. A. R. Whitney. Mr. Cross and Mr. James Lumm taught the school between the years 1846 and 1848. In 1848 J. D. McKay had charge of the school and Col. H. T. Noble in 1851 and 1852; among the pupils at this time were Mrs. Soule, Mrs. Hollenbeck (deceased) and Mrs. B. F. Shaw. The old school-house had been abandoned and a new stone building erected, the same that is now owned by Mrs. Burke, recently inclosed by a frame house. The school-room becoming somewhat too small, a primary department under charge of Miss Jane Ann Herrick was started in the court-house in 1852. C. N. Levanway taught the school in 1852 and 1853, and was succeeded by F. A. Soule. In 1854 Wm. Barge assumed control of the schools and continued in charge from that date until July 1859. During his charge the school took the character and efficiency of a graded school; shortly after Mr. Barge took charge the school was transferred to the basement of the building known as the "Land Office," now used as a residence.

May 7, 1855, Dixon Collegiate Institute, under the care of Rev. W. W. Harsha, commenced its first term; school-room in the basement of the Lutheran church. Early teachers in this institution were Rev. W. W. Harsha, Professor E. C. Smith, Mrs. E. A. Smith, Mrs. C. L. Harsha, and Miss Jenny L. Backus.

July 15, 1857, a Female Seminary under charge of the Episcopal church, Rev. J. W. Downing, principal, was started in the large white house west of the Central depot.

In August, 1858, a high-school department was established in the old Methodist Episcopal church on Second street, and A. H. Fitch was elected principal. A. M. Gow was employed as superintendent of schools, and James Gow as principal of the high school, in 1859. The school then consisted of five departments, and had an enrollment of about 400. These gentlemen continued in charge of the school until 1862, when the present principal, E. C. Smith, was elected to act at once as superintendent of schools and principal of the high school, in which capacity he has labored ever since.

The city is divided into two school districts, and in the winter of 1868-9 the people of District No. 5 (north side), at a cost of \$20,000, erected a fine school building of magnificent appearance, standing on an elevation near the grove that skirts the northern part of our town, and overlooking every portion of the city, the river, its islands, and rough romantic scenery, and the rolling prairie beyond. The building is constructed of brick to the third story, with a Mansard roof, crowned with a neat belfry. The ground plan is 54×63 feet, and, including the basement, is four stories high. The first and second stories, each thirteen feet high, are divided into two school-rooms, 25×38 feet, with

a recitation room for each,  $10 \times 18$  feet. The Mansard story is one large study-room,  $39 \times 48$  feet, sixteen feet high, having a rostrum in the north end,  $10 \times 12$  feet, with an ante-room opening upon it from either side. The halls are commodious and give easy access to each room.

Mr. C. O. Scudder is principal of the schools on the north side, and they are prospering under his careful management. There are now enrolled in the different departments about 180 pupils.

The high-school department is taught by the principal, assisted by Miss Welty; the grammar school is taught by Miss A. Raymond; intermediate by Miss M. Yates, and the primary department by Mrs. A. C. Holbrook.

The building on the south side, in District No. 1, was erected in the summer of 1869 at a cost of \$32,000. It is a handsome brick structure of even more imposing appearance than its predecessor on the north side. This building, situated as it is upon a high eminence in the southern part of the city near the depots, is the most prominent object that meets the gaze of strangers visiting our city.

The building, which is  $91 \times 75$  feet, four stories high, including the basement, is admirably arranged, each room being large and well adapted to the purpose for which it is used, while the furniture consists of modern and most approved patterns. The seats provided will accommodate 516 pupils with comfort and convenience. The building contains eight school-rooms, with all the necessary recitation rooms, closets, etc., thus arranged: one primary and two intermediate rooms on the first floor, two intermediate and one grammar room on the second floor, and the first grammar and high school-rooms on the third floor.

There are 459 pupils enrolled in the south side public schools.

The schools in this district are under the efficient management of E. C. Smith, who has served in the capacity of superintendent of the south side schools for the past eighteen years.

The high school is taught by the superintendent, assisted by Miss Emma Goodrich, with an attendance of fifty pupils.

The first grammar school is taught by Miss Adelia Pinckney, with an attendance of twenty-seven pupils, and the second by Miss Nellie Soule, with an attendance of thirty-four.

The first intermediate is taught by Miss Hattie Sterling, with an attendance of fifty-six pupils; the second, taught by Miss Ida DeLand, numbers forty-five pupils; the third, taught by Miss Emma Burnham, numbers forty-nine pupils, and the fourth, taught by Miss Fannie Murphy, numbers fifty-seven pupils.

The primary department is taught by Miss Amelia McCumsey, and numbers fifty-one pupils.



North of the court-house, in the first ward, is another primary school where Miss A. G. Curtice instructs forty-five pupils. West of the central depot, in the third ward, is another small school building in which Mrs. L. L. Woodwarth instructs forty-seven pupils.

Since the grade system of instruction was adopted in the south side schools, beginning with 1864, there has been seventy-two graduates from the high school: forty-one females and thirty-one males. There has been two or three classes graduated from the high school on the north side since the adoption of the grade system in that district in 1869; the number of graduates we, however, were unable to learn.

The Catholic society has a denominational school with an average attendance of 150 scholars, under the instruction of four Dominican sisters and one novice. The school was started about 1872 in the old church building, under the labors of Father McDermott, and has been kept up in a prosperous condition ever since.

In addition to the public schools our city has the Rock River University. The building is a large brick and stone edifice, five stories high, located on a high eminence in the east part of the town, and commands a view of the country for many miles in extent all around our city, as well as the course of Rock river in its meanderings toward the father of waters, until it passes from the range of sight. The building is constructed on an extensive plan and is admirably adapted to the purpose for which it was erected.

January 30, 1855, a meeting was held at Exchange Hall for the purpose of taking into consideration the plan proposed by the Rock River Presbytery, through their agents Revs. Harsha and Mason, for locating a college at this place.

As a result, on July 4, 1855, the corner stone of the Dixon Collegiate Institute was laid in the presence of a large concourse of people. B. F. Taylor, of Chicago, delivered the oration. The institution had an endowment of \$25,000; the citizens of Dixon giving grounds, property, apparatus, etc., to the extent of \$12,000. In 1857 the institution was incorporated by special act of the legislature. In 1858 it was abandoned by the presbytery.

In 1858 the Dixon Collegiate Institute was reorganized under the auspices of A. M. Gow.

September 8, 1863, the Dixon Seminary was opened in the college building by S. G. Lathrop and M. M. Tooke.

January 20, 1874, a conservatory of music was started in the seminary building, by Profs. S. W. Moses and E. A. Gurney.

November 1, 1875, school was opened in the college building

under the name of the Rock River University. O. G. May, president, and M. M. Tooke, regent.

December 2, 1878, A. M. Hansen took charge of the Rock River University.

September 3, 1879, the Rock River University opened under new management; J. R. Hinckley, president.

The institution settled down to a preparatory and military academy, yet competent instruction in the normal, business, musical and art departments was provided for those wishing such special work.

The last board of management and instruction consisted of Jay R. Hinckley, president; Maj. H. O. Chase, military instructor; W. H. Chamberlain, business manager; Henry M. Douglass, Mrs. Jay R. Hinckley, and Miss Lucy Whiton.

*Normal School.*—The citizens of Dixon have pledged an appropriation of \$25,000 for the purpose of establishing a normal school, which it is expected will be opened September 1 by Miss Dilly and Flint, of Valparaiso, Indiana, in the old seminary building until their new building is erected.

#### DIXON HOTELS.

It has been said of the early days of the country that "every house is a place of entertainment." Some special attention was given to this by a few families in an early day, but the first hotel built for the purpose was the Western, erected in 1836, and opened in that winter by Messrs. H. Thompson and P. McKinney. It was what is now used as the northern part of the Revere house, on Hennepin street near Second. This was followed by the Rock River house, in 1837, by Messrs. Crowell & Willson. This house was afterward known as the Phoenix, and was destroyed by fire in 1846. The Dixon house was the third building erected for a hotel in Dixon, and was built about 1840.

On March 19, 1853, a company was formed with a capital of \$10,000 for the erection of a large hotel, the building to be ready for the public in July, but was not ready until December 10 of that year. This is the Nachusa house, and was built upon a foundation that was laid for a hotel in 1838, which enterprise failed at the time through the then existing financial stringency felt in the state. The Nachusa house is situated on Galena street, opposite the public square. It occupies a commanding eminence, and overlooks the whole town, as well as the course of Rock river for many miles above and below the city. It is built of undressed limestone, and, including the basement, is five stories high. The main building is 48×40 feet, with a wing in the rear 80×36 built to the main building by E. B. Stiles in 1854. The fifth story was added to the building in 1867, and is finished with a Man-

sard roof. The original and entire cost of the building was over \$30,000; to erect this house now, with the present cost of materials, would probably be near \$40,000. The management of the house is now in the hands of Mr. Geo. Benjamin, who is a thorough business man.

The Washington house was erected in 1854 on the corner of Main and Ottawa streets. It is a three-story brick structure, 34×60 feet, with a large frame addition in the rear. This house is near the business part of the city, and close to the Rock river water-power. The present proprietor, Henry Remers, erected the building, and has conducted the business since that time, with the exception of four years, between 1856 and 1860.



NACHUA HOUSE.

In August, 1855, Mr. McKenney removed the Dixon house from the ground now occupied by Riley's brick buildings on Main street to its present location opposite the Opera house.

On June 14, 1856, Messrs. Cropsey, Dement & Noble commenced the erection of a large hotel, called the Shabbona House, near the depots. It was afterward leased to Messrs. Crockett & Dake. In the following year (1857) it was opened by Mr. Benjamin, from Vermont, and the house changed in name to the Dement House. On December 2, 1868, it was reopened as the St. James Hotel by H. E. Gedney. This was followed by the Waverly House, at the Air Line depot, by Messrs. Cheney & Co., on April 19, 1860; at the present writing it is under the management of Mr. Thomas Young.

The Keystone House was opened in 1866, on Main street, near

Galena, and is quite centrally located ; it is under the direction of Mrs. E. Brautegan at the present writing.

The hotels of a city form one of the chief attractions to the traveling public. From the character of the hotels an opinion either favorable or otherwise is generally formed of the enterprise of a place ; for a people who are hospitable, and appreciate the presence and comfort of strangers who may visit their city, will see to it that good accommodations are provided for them ; and the ample provisions made in the city of Dixon, and the hospitality extended to strangers, are well attested by the traveling public.

## BRIDGES.

In 1845 Mr. Dixon spent most of the time of a legislative session in Springfield in an effort to secure the passage of a "bridge and dam" charter for the benefit of the city. It was strongly opposed on the ground that the state had no power to authorize any obstruction to a stream declared navigable within its limits : that the stream belonged to the whole people and could not be diverted from the interests of commerce to private or corporate purposes. To this it was replied that the river was not in fact navigable without the aid of dams, and that the Rock river valley was destined to become a vast manufacturing region. Mr. Dixon succeeded toward the close of the session in getting the bill through, although the bridge was to supersede his ferry, which was then yielding to him \$800 per year. Under this charter the first bridge was built in 1846 at a cost of \$8,000. This bridge was built by the Rock River Dam and Bridge Company in the fall and winter of 1846 and 1847, at the foot of Ottawa street. Travel had hardly commenced when the spring freshet of March 20, 1847, swept away the north half. The bridge was rebuilt two feet higher than the original bridge during the summer at a cost of \$2,000. The contractors were Lorenzo Wood and Luther I. Towner. The board of directors consisted of the following gentlemen : John Dement, Oliver Everett, John Dixon, M. Fellows, Ottis A. Eddy, J. B. Brooks, Jas. P. Dixon, and Horace Preston. This bridge stood as repaired until the spring of 1849, when the south half was taken out. The ferry was brought into requisition until the summer of 1851, when the south half of the bridge was rebuilt, raising it four feet higher than the north half, making this part of the bridge six feet higher than the original bridge. The following persons constituted the directors of the bridge company, who were elected on May 5, 1851 : John Dement, C. Aldridge, John Shellaber, J. B. Brooks, John V. Eustace, Carleton Bayley, I. S. Boardman, jr., Lorenzo Wood, and E. B. Baker.

The structure erected in 1851 stood until the spring of 1857, when the descent of the ice on the 24th day of February of that year carried



it away. During 1856 a free bridge was built by private parties across the river in what was known as Morrill Town, below where the railroad bridge stands. This was just completed when, on the 14th of February, 1857, the ice which had accumulated around the piers was lifted up by the rising water, carrying the bridge with it; but the ice not breaking up, the superstructure was not carried away. It was damaged, however, so that it had to be rebuilt, which was done in the spring, only to be carried away by the June freshet. At this time both bridges, the one at the foot of Ottawa street and the free bridge below, were destroyed. On the 23d of May, 1857, Mr. James A. Watson commenced the erection of a foot-bridge at the foot of Galena street, but money was raised in a few days after to erect a wagon and foot bridge, which was completed during the summer, and on the 28th day of November, 1857, two spans of the north end went down with two loaded teams and eight or ten head of cattle. This was repaired only to be swept away by the flood of June 3, 1858, which also destroyed the free bridge which had been rebuilt. The city paper, of this date, said: "Rock river is at this time swollen to overflowing its banks. Both the wagon bridges at this place have suffered in consequence of the flood. The free bridge, but a small portion of which was carried away, will be repaired immediately; while steps will be taken by our citizens to build a new bridge in the place of the one swept away at the foot of Galena street." On the 25th of August, 1859, active operations were commenced in the erection of a free bridge at the foot of Galena street to cost \$12,000; Z. H. Luckey, contractor. Four months after it was completed, on the 20th of February 1859, the dam gave way before an accumulation of ice, which together descended against the bridge and carried away two bents at one crash; and later, two more were taken. In the following August, 1860, a free bridge was commenced to take the place of the toll-bridge taken out by the ice in the previous winter. The completion of this bridge was embarrassed by not having sufficient funds at command to carry the work forward. "Free bridge parties" were given and the proceeds added to the liberal contributions of the merchants. Finally, the necessary sum (\$13,000) was raised and the bridge was thrown open to the public amidst great rejoicing, January 1, 1861. This was an event in the history of Dixon. On New Year's eve a large "free bridge party" was held at the Nachusa House, which was so successful that the arrearage that had delayed the completion of the work was arranged. The object was accomplished so that at four o'clock in the afternoon of the next day, January 1, the mayor and council, in sleighs and cutters, headed a large procession across the bridge accompanied by the sound of music and the thunder of cannon. About this time the lower bridge disappeared.

On May 10, 1866, a middle span of the bridge went down with a drove of about one hundred head of cattle, all of which were thrown into the river, and two were drowned. Repairs were begun on December 2, 1867, by James Watson; but in the spring, March 7, 1868, the bridge was destroyed by the high water and floating ice. This freshet took out about 120 feet of the south end of the dam, and battered down one pier of the railroad bridge on the following night.

Through all these years, until the city erected the Truesdell iron bridge in 1868, nine bridges—all of wood resting upon wooden trestles or piers—had been, either in part or wholly, swept away by the treacherous waters of Rock river. This being the case, the people finally came to the conclusion that they would erect a bridge which no flood could wash away. With much labor and expense piers and abutments of solid masonry were placed upon substantial foundations made by driving piles below the gravel and changing the bed of the river. Upon these piers and abutments was placed a handsome superstructure wholly of iron, with the exception of the floors. The entire cost of the work to the city was \$75,000. The opening of the bridge to the public on January 21, 1869, was made the occasion for a celebration by our citizens, and after a severe test of its strength the structure was accepted by the city, and all rejoiced that they had at last secured a bridge of such great strength. The occasion was celebrated by a procession a mile long headed by Father Dixon in a carriage; he was followed by other old settlers, Dixon cornet band, the city council, and citizens in wagons and carriages; and no one present upon this occasion thought they would live to see its destruction; but alas! how frail are human hopes! Scarcely four years had passed when it fell, resulting in such a fearful sacrifice of life and property, and causing so much suffering.

Sunday, May 4, 1873, the Truesdell iron bridge fell, precipitating about two hundred men, women and children, who were witnessing a baptismal ceremony just below the bridge, into the stream without a moment's notice; thirty-seven persons were drowned, or killed by portions of the structure falling upon them; forty-seven were seriously and five mortally injured. The bridge was twisted and broken from end to end, and hung from the piers, an appalling sight in itself. Those killed were Miss Katy Sterling, Miss Melissie Wilhelm, Miss Maggie O'Brien, Miss Nettie Hill, Miss Ida Vann, Miss Ida Drew, Miss Agnes Nixon, Miss Bessie Rayne, Miss Irene Baker, Miss Emily Deming, Miss Lizzie Mackay, Mrs. Doctor Hoffinan, Mrs. J. W. Latta, Mrs. Col. H. T. Noble, Mrs. Benjamin Gilman, Mrs. Carpenter, Mrs. William Took, Mrs. James Goble, Mrs. Elias Hope, Mrs. E. Wallace, Mrs. E. Petersberger and little daughter, Mrs. Thomas Wade, Mrs. Henry

Sillman, Mrs. William Merriman, Mrs. C. W. Kentner, two children of Mrs. Hendrix, two daughters of Mrs. Stackpole, Clara and Rosa, Mr. George W. Kent, Mr. Frank Hamilton, Mr. Edward Doyle, Mr. Thomas Haley, Mr. Robert Dyke, Mr. Jay R. Mason. Died from wounds: Mrs. P. M. Alexander, Mrs. William Vann, Mrs. Charles March, Mrs. W. Wilcox, Mr. Seth H. Whitmore.

In the fall of 1873 the Howe truss wooden bridge was built by the American Bridge Company, at a cost of \$18,000; it was finished November 18. This bridge is still standing; and although the water has been two feet higher this spring (1881) than ever known before, the bridge remains unharmed.

#### THE CITY CHURCHES.

The intelligence and morals of a city or community will be expressed in its schools and churches. The former indicates the educational tendencies, and the latter the religious advantages of the community. The life of Dixon has been ever associated with both the educational and the religious, even when there were no school or church buildings the literary and religious education of the young was not neglected; but in the cabin homes and around the homely hearth-stone began the first teaching of the intellect and heart. The fruits of this early education are now being gathered by the descendants of those noble men and women of primitive days. It was written of Dixon in 1845 that the village had reached a population of 400, and had four religious denominations,—Methodist, Baptist, Episcopalian, and Congregational—a select and district school.

A Unitarian church was organized in 1850, but little, however, had been done to prosper the society until 1855, when Hon. J. V. Eustace, Dr. O. Everett, G. L. Herrick, and others, with the aid of Rev. Mr. Kelsey as pastor, selected a beautifully designed frame building on the north side, where services were held for a few years, when the organization disbanded and the property was sold.

In 1854 a Congregational church was organized with nine members: Revs. S. D. Peet, D. Temple, and H. Hesley successively served as ministers; B. D. Gay, S. K. Upham, and B. Gellman as deacons. The organization disbanded in 1858, the most of the members connecting with the First Presbyterian church.

*The Methodist Episcopal Church of Dixon.*—This society was the first religious organization in the bounds of Lee county, bearing date 1837. The class was organized by Rev. Mr. McKean, who received as original members of the class S. M. Bowman and Mrs. E. A. Bowman, John Richards and Ann Richards, Caleb Tallmage and Amanda Tallmage, and Maria McClure. The society worshiped in a room over

Messrs. Boardman & Bowen's store. In 1839 the class had an addition to the original members: T. D. Boardman, Mr. and Mrs. Perry, and Mr. and Mrs. O. F. Ayres. At this time services were held in the school-house. The first house of worship was erected in 1843, and dedicated by Rev. John T. Mitchel. This was a brick structure costing \$4,000, and was located on Second street near Ottawa. The board of trustees consisted of Jas. T. Dixon, C. Edson, O. F. Ayres, W. G. Winkoop, Thomas McCabe, J. Brierton, and S. M. Bowman.

The first parsonage was built in 1851, 24×30 feet, at the expense of over \$800. This house stood on Third street near where the Illinois Central depot stands. This property was sold, and a lot procured on which the present church and parsonage buildings stand. During the conference year of 1854-5 the present church edifice was built on Peoria street. It was improved in 1870 and 1871, and again in 1876, at a cost of \$2,700. The original cost of the church was \$15,000. It was not entirely finished until 1857, when it was dedicated by Bishop Bowman. The pastors since the organization of the class are as follows: Robert Dulap and Barton Cartwright came here as circuit preachers in the fall of 1837; they were followed by Isaac Pool and Riley Hill; Luke Hitchcock came in 1839, Richard Blanchard in August 1840, Philo Judson in fall of 1841. August 3, 1842, Inlet Grove, Palestine Grove, and Melugin's Grove were added to Dixon circuit, which already embraced Washington Grove, Light House Point, Jefferson Grove, Daysville, and Paine's Point; Philo Judson and W. H. Cooley were appointed circuit preachers. W. Wilcox was appointed to Dixon in August 1843, David Brooks in July 1844, S. P. Keys in August 1845, Milton Haney and R. W. H. Brent came to this charge in August 1846, R. P. Lawton came in 1847, Wm. Palmer in fall of 1848, Thomas North in July 1850, James Baume came in September 1852, J. W. Agard in 1854, Wilbur McKaig in September 1855, N. P. Heath in 1857, L. A. Sanford in August 1858, S. G. Lathrop in 1859, O. B. Thayer in September 1862, W. H. Smith in March 1864, G. L. S. Stuff came in October 1864, T. C. Clendenning in October 1865, George E. Strobbridge in October 1867, J. H. Brown in October 1869, John Williamson in 1871, Isaac Linebarger in October 1874, G. R. Vanhorne in October 1876, A. W. Patton in October 1879, and Rev. Mr. Cleveland in October 1880.

*The Presbyterian Church.*—The First Presbyterian Society in Dixon was organized January 29, 1853, George Sharer and James Means being chosen deacons. Having no house of worship, they met in the stone school-house. The original members were George Sharer, Nancy Sharer, James Means, John Beatty, Nancy Beatty, Mary Richardson, Robert McBride, Mrs. Jane Smith, and Mrs. Jane



Little. In 1855 Rev. W. W. Harsha assumed charge of the church, and in the same year (June 1855) the church was organized under the general laws of the state for the purpose of building a house of worship, and the following persons were chosen trustees: James L. Camp, Isaac Means, Samuel Crawford, S. Russell, and S. C. Warden. Their house was erected on Third street and dedicated on February 17, 1856, by Rev. Mr. Harsha, their pastor. This building stood adjoining the place of the present house, and was a small brick building, 28 × 42 feet. This house proving in time to be inadequate to the demand of the congregation, additional ground was secured and the present structure was erected in 1866, at a cost of about \$15,000. It was dedicated on October 28, 1866. The dedicatory sermon was preached by Rev. W. W. Harsha, who was their first pastor, and dedicated the first church edifice. The building is constructed of dressed limestone and is 41 × 72 feet. The building is surmounted by a tower 130 feet high, which incloses a fine bell weighing over two thousand pounds. There are connected with this church about two hundred members. Rev. E. C. Sickles has been pastor of the congregation for the past eighteen years.

The present church edifices in the city are handsome, substantial buildings, constructed and furnished according to modern tastes, and present a pleasing and inviting appearance. All the present church structures in use, except one, were built within the past fourteen years. These buildings are all conveniently large for the wants of this place, and have a total seating capacity of over 3,000, but upon special occasions can be made to accommodate a much greater number. The church property of our city represents a total value of over \$140,000.

*New Evangelical Lutheran Church.*—This christian denomination was first represented in Lee county by "The First Evangelical Lutheran congregation of Lee county," which was organized under the official and ministerial supervision of the Rev. Jacob Burket, on August 20, 1848, in the barn of J. N. Burket, south Dixon. The following persons were constituted members of the society: John N. Burket and Mary Burket, John Mayer and Elizabeth Mayer, Nathan Hetter and Catherine Hetter, Phillip Mower and Mary Mower, Jacob Shoop and Catherine Shoop, Catherine Grow, Nancy Smice, Lydia Courtright, Catherine Palmer, Magdalene Clinetob, and Mary A. M. Burket.

Jacob Burket sustained the relation of pastor for two years, his service closing August 1850. He was succeeded by Ephraim Miller, who took charge of the congregation in May 1851, and remained with them until May 1852. He was followed successively by Charles Young and William Uhl.

On November 12, 1853, the congregation changed the name of the society to the Apostolic name of "St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran church," and incorporated by filing a certificate of corporation in the county recorder's office. After this change the congregation was served as pastor by D. Harbaugh until the division of the congregation as given below.

In December, 1856, the society was divided by the German portion of the congregation withdrawing and organizing an independent congregation. After completing their organization they called to the pastorate Rev. Charles Young. During the time of their separation the English church was served by Revs. J. L. Guard, J. R. Keiser, and A. A. Trimper. During the pastoral services of the latter gentleman the societies were reunited prior to the spring of 1870, from which time the pastors have been Revs. N. W. Lilly, S. S. Waltz, and L. L. Lipe, the present pastor.

After the reorganization of the church by Rev. William Uhl, John N. Burket and John Moyer were chosen elders, and John Beal and Henry Burket, deacons. In November of the same year an organization was effected for the purpose of erecting a house of worship. J. N. Burket, Henry T. Burket, Jonathan De Puy and John Beal were chosen trustees. The house, erected the following year, was located in the southeasterly part of the city, but it was found inadequate to the increasing congregation, and the site unsatisfactory, and was abandoned for a more commodious one on Second street in 1869. On February 14 it was dedicated, the dedicatory sermon being preached by Rev. G. A. Bowers. The building is a neat brick structure, 42x80 feet, two stories high, costing \$15,500.

The society has a handsome parsonage on the lot adjoining the church which was erected during the summer of 1876.

The church was dedicated on July 28, 1872; the morning sermon was delivered by Rev. Mr. Ravlin, and in the evening by Rev. J. A. Smith, D.D. The auditorium will comfortably seat 500 people. The Sabbath-school room occupies nearly the entire basement story. On June 23, 1878, the society celebrated their fortieth anniversary, in the church.

The pastors since the organization are B. B. Carpenter from June 1840 to October 1844; Burton Carpenter from December 1844 to March 1845; Wm. Gates occupied the pulpit occasionally and Wm. Walker about four months between March 1844 and April 1847, when E. T. Manning became pastor for one year; S. S. Martin became pastor in 1849 for one year; G. W. Benton supplied the pulpit for about six months between Martin's pastorate and August 1851, when

John E. Ball became pastor for about four years; Anson Tucker took charge in May 1855, served eleven months; W. R. Webb became pastor in June 1856, served over four years; Wm. G. Pratt became pastor in March 1861, for one year; W. S. Goodno in September 1862, served two years; J. H. Pratt became pastor in October 1864, served over nine years; D. F. Carnahan became pastor in August 1874; O. P. Bestor, took charge in August 1877. Rev. L. L. Lipe is present pastor.

*The First Baptist Church of Dixon.*—This church was organized under the auspices of Mrs. John Dixon and her sister, Mrs. Kellogg, at Buffalo Grove, on May 28, 1838, there being present all the members of the denomination in the vicinity of Dixon and Buffalo Grove. Rev. Thomas Powel acted as moderator. The following persons became the original members of this society: Mr. H. H. Bicknell, Rebecca Dixon, Elizabeth Bellows, Jerusha Hammond, Sarah Kellogg, Martha Parks, and Ann Clarly. At the close of four years there were seventy names on the church roll of membership. All the original members but Mrs. Hiram Parks have passed away. An organization was effected under the state laws for the purpose of building a house of worship, February 22, 1842, under the name of "The Dixon congregation." Smith Gilbraith, J. T. Little, J. B. Nash, Stephen Fuller and Elijah Dixon were elected trustees. Under this organization a lot was secured on Ottawa street, and a brick edifice was erected in the following year (1843); elder Jacob Knopp, of Rockford, officiated at the dedicatory services. Subsequently the property was disposed of, and in 1869 a more imposing building was erected on Second street, the corner-stone being laid on October 1 of the same year. It is a commodious brick edifice, 90 x 45 feet, and was built at a cost of \$15,000. Rev. Mr. Bestor is present pastor.

*St. Luke's Episcopal Church.*—This church was organized in the summer of 1837, under the labors of Rev. James De Puy, by the election of wardens and vestrymen. After this faithful minister was removed from the congregation the work of the church was suspended, and all the church records up to 1855 were lost. On March 19, 1855, a meeting of the vestry met at the office of Messrs. Robertson, Eastman & Co., Rev. Mr. Bently being present. At this meeting Addison Rice, S. C. Eells, A. McKay and H. Hine were chosen vestrymen, and Geo. C. Chapmon and J. K. Edsal were chosen wardens. A building was erected on Peoria street, since changed into a dwelling which stands now directly north of the present church. In 1871, an enlarged area of ground was purchased on the corner of Peoria and Third streets, on which the present beautiful stone edifice was erected in the same year.



Yours truly  
Hoy Charters





Sept. 7, 1871, the corner-stone of St. Luke's church was laid by Rev. John Wilkinson, who was rector of this parish from 1858 to 1860. The church was opened for services September 15, 1872.

Rev. Mr. Bentley was the first rector of the parish after this reorganization, and he was succeeded by C. J. Todd in August of 1856, and he by J. G. Downing in May 1857; Rev. J. Wilkinson was rector from August 1858 to August 1859; Rev. A. J. Warner became rector in January 1861, and was succeeded by G. C. Street in April 1862, and Jas. W. Coe in May 1863, who continued in charge until July 1865; Rev. H. H. De Garmon was rector from March to September 1866; D. W. Dresser from November 1866 to November 1867; H. W. Williams from March 1868 to June 1871; M. Byllesby from November 1871 to April 1873; Samuel Edson from May 1873 to October 1875; Joseph Cross from December 1875 to October 1876; W. Henry Jones from November 1876 until his death, April 26, 1878. Rev. W. W. Steel, came in September 1878. Rev. J. Wilkinson, at this writing (1881), is serving the church temporarily.

*The Universalist Church.*—This society was organized in 1870. This was anticipated by a Universalist centenary held in the Methodist Episcopal church, when measures were initiated that resulted in the above organization, and the establishment of the Universalist church in Dixon. The following gentlemen were elected trustees for the society in view of the building of a church edifice: Edward Sterling, L. A. Sutton, A. Hubbard, William Parker, and L. Sherman.

The society held services in Union hall for awhile, and from there they went to Tillson's hall on Galena street, which they used until their house of worship was erected. To accomplish this a building committee was elected, consisting of G. L. Herrick, W. A. Judd, S. Merriman and C. F. Emerson. A building was erected, 40×80 feet, on the corner of Second and Hennepin streets, and was dedicated by Rev. J. E. Forrester, D.D., August 7, 1873. Rev. H. V. Chase was the first pastor, and remained with the society five years. He was succeeded in December, 1876, by Rev. D. F. Rogers, who served as pastor for one year, and about the beginning of 1877 Mr. Chase was again called to the pastorate of the church.

*The Catholic Church of Dixon.*—This church was established under Rev. Father Fitzgerald in 1854, in which year he erected their first house of worship and a parsonage, on Fifth street. In 1873 this house was abandoned as a house of worship, for a new and very imposing one on the corner of Market and Seventh streets. This was done under the general management of Rev. Father McDermott. The old building has been appropriated to denominational school

purposes, under the control of the Sisters of Charity. The church building is the largest in the city, having a seating capacity of 600. The church, including altar furniture, etc., cost about \$30,000. The bell on the church has a weight of 2500 pounds, and was purchased at a cost of \$900. There are 200 families connected with the congregation of this church. Rev. Father Hodnett is pastor.

*Oakwood Cemetery*, containing ten acres, is situated immediately east of the city. Its site is a very beautiful one, overlooking the magnificent valley of Rock river for miles in either direction. It is high and rolling ground, interspread with a natural growth of trees and shrubs, making its landscape beauty unsurpassed for a "city of the dead." A part of this cemetery was dedicated for cemetery purposes by the Hon. John Dixon, on the original plat of the city, and the remainder was purchased and laid out by the city. It is under control of the city council. The rapid growth of Dixon will soon render it necessary to enlarge it or to seek out an additional site for cemetery purposes.

#### CIVIC SOCIETIES.

Of these Dixon has twelve organizations, a fact indicative of the social and benevolent nature of her people. With the exception of one, these are all secret societies, the aggregate membership of which is over 500. Most of them are beneficial in their character, and one has a life insurance connected with its organization. Thus provision is made for the afflicted during life and their survivors after death.

Below we give the names and dates of organization of the different lodges and societies, together with the principal officers:

*Masonic.* — Friendship Lodge, No. 7. Organized under dispensation from the Grand Lodge of Kentucky on November 6, 1840; obtained charter from the Grand Lodge of Illinois October 6, 1841. Officers: J. V. Thomas, W.M.; E. W. Smith, S.W.; G. D. Laing, J.W.; W. A. Sussmilch, Sec.; Theodore Moeller, Treas.

Nachusa Chapter, No. 56. Organized under dispensation July 29, 1859; received charter September 30, 1859. Officers: J. B. Pomeroy, H.P.; S. S. Dodge, King; J. W. Latta, Scribe; D. B. McKenney, Treas.; C. G. Smith, Sec.

Dixon Council, No. 7. Organized under dispensation December 1, 1863. Officers: C. S. Brown, Thrice Illus. G.M.; J. B. Pomeroy, Sec.

Dixon Commandery, No. 21, K.T. Organized under dispensation June 16, 1866; obtained charter October 23, 1866. Officers: J. B. Pomeroy, E.C.; S. S. Dodge, G.; John D. Crabtree, C.G.; James A. Hawley, Treas.; C. W. Latimer, Rec.

*Odd-Fellows.*—Dixon Lodge, No. 39. Organized under dispensation May 28, 1848. Officers: Orvill Anderson, N.S.; Edmund Camp, V.G.; M. C. Weyburn, Sec.; H. P. Wickes, R.S.; Francis Forsyth, Treas.

Nachusa Encampment, No. 115. Organized under dispensation March 9, 1871; obtained charter October 10, 1871. Officers: M. C. Weyburn, C.P.; C. W. Dey, H.P.; F. Hegert, J.W.; F. P. Beck, Scribe; C. F. Emerson, Treas.; R. Rierson, J.W.

Rucker Lodge, No. 493 (German). Organized August 7, 1872. Officers: A. Reseck, N.G.; L. Faulkaber, V.G.; A. Levi, R.S.; C. Gonnerman, Treas.

*Temperance Societies.*—Father Mathew's Total Abstinence and Benevolent Society. Organized February 4, 1870. Officers: James Rice, Pres.; John Hennessey, V.-Pres.; Dennis Denny, Rec. Sec.; Patrick McDonald, Treas.; C. J. Turney, Marshal.

Dixon Division, No. 11, S. of T. Organized November 11, 1875. Officers: B. F. Stewart, W.P.; J. W. Clute, Treas.; L. Hess, R.S.

Forest Home Lodge, No. 137, A.O.U.W. Organized January 29, 1879. Officers: H. P. Wickes, M.W.; W. J. Daley, P.M.W.; H. Christman, Foreman; Eugene Pinckney, Overseer; G. A. Mead, Rec.; L. D. Pitcher, Financier.

Henderson Encampment, No. 27, O.C.D. O. J. Downing, Com.; W. J. Johnson, Lieut. Com.; Henry Barnes, Adj't; J. N. Hyde, Q.-M.

Dixon Boat Club was organized May 22, 1878. Officers: E. C. Parsons, Pres.; F. K. Orvis, V.-Pres.; W. M. Kennedy, Sec.; Geo. D. Laing, Treas.; C. E. Chandler, Capt.

July 6, 1875, the "Woman's Christian Temperance Union" was organized in the basement of the Methodist church, through the efforts of Miss Frances Willard, of Chicago. The Union consisted of thirty members. Officers elected were President, Mrs. S. H. Manny; Vice-Presidents, Mrs. D. F. Carnahan, Mrs. Linebarger, Mrs. Edson, Mrs. Chase, Mrs. E. C. Sickles; Recording Secretary, Miss Lila Fargo; Corresponding Secretary, Miss E. W. Alexander; Treasurer, Miss Nellie Holt.

July 16, 1853, a division of the Sons of Temperance was instituted under the name of Lee county Division, No. 376, and the following named gentlemen elected officers: L. Wood, P.W.P.; W. H. Andrews, W.P.; J. Kerr, W.A.; J. W. Clute, F.S.; W. H. H. Crow, R.S.; A. T. Murphy, T.; H. O. Kelsey, C.; H. Brookner, A. C. About a month later the paper, in speaking of this society, says that it is "increasing very rapidly, already numbering some fifty members."



March 23, 1866, a Lodge of Good Templars, No. 756, was organized in Dixon. The Lodge surrendered its charter in the spring of 1868, and the active members united with the Sons of Temperance.

October 27, 1870, Rebecca Lodge, No. 30, was organized, with the following charter members: A. Platt, G. L. Herrick, H. K. Strong, Frances Forsyth, Constantine Wild, Phebe Pratt, Julia Herrick, Mary A. Strong, Lucy A. Forsyth, and Barbara Wild.

*Dixon Crown Temple, No. 25, U. O. A. T.*—This lodge was organized August 30, 1880, by N. P. Barry, in the Universalist church.

The following persons were the charter members, to wit: Benjamin F. Stewart, Geo. N. Barnes, William Chiverton, John Oconon, John Moseley, Austin Morse, B. B. Higgins, Clayton Brown, Jessey Hettler, John Hettler, E. H. Groh, John A. Stumpp, L. H. Burd, Sherwood Dixon, Dr. Henry Brooks, Miss Malissa Barnes, Miss Mary Brown, Miss Blanch Talcott, Mrs. G. G. Stewart, Mrs. Mary Hettler, and Miss Mary Lynch.

Present board of officers: Geo. W. Barnes, Templar; Austin Morse, Past Templar; Mrs. G. G. Stewart, Vice-Templar; Miss Malissa Barnes, Lecturer; Benjamin F. Stewart, Recorder; J. F. Morseley, Financier; Jessey Hettler, Treasurer; E. H. Groh, Marshall; Wm Chiverton, Guard; Blanch Talcott, Watch.

This organization has associated with it a mortuary department, which provides a beneficiary fund, to be distributed, in case of the death of a member of the department, to such parties as provided for in the mortuary certificate.

This is the only temperance organization in the country with which a beneficiary department is associated. The influences and advantages of this provision are quite apparent in the prosperity of the order in local organizations, as well as the general interest felt throughout the country in the welfare of the new order. In cases of need, benefits are distributed to sick or disabled members, as may be ordered by the Temple, of which such person or persons are members.

#### THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Is entirely volunteer, and consists of a hose company of sixty-five men, and a hook and ladder company of twenty-six men. These companies were both organized in January, 1870; up to that time our city was without any organized force for fire protection. In 1869 the Water Power Company had put in a rotary pump of a rated capacity of 1200 gallons per minute—about double the capacity of a first-class steam fire engine. This pump, together with 600 feet of hose, was

originally intended for the use of the manufacturing establishments at the water-power, but when the fire companies were organized the city assumed charge of the pump and bought 1000 feet of additional hose, and one hose reel, hook and ladder truck, and other necessary fire apparatus. The fire hall was built in 1871; the upper story is divided into two meeting rooms, one for each company, and the lower story is used for apparatus. In the winter of 1871-2, water mains were laid from the pump to the corner of Main and Galena streets, and afterward to the corner of Hennepin and Second streets. In 1876 the city put in a piston pump with a capacity of 1600 gallons per minute, but owing to the small mains cannot be worked to its full capacity. The city has expended for apparatus and property for the fire department since its organization over \$13,500. The department had at the beginning of this year three hose carts, twenty-one hundred feet of hose, and two hook and ladder trucks, but nearly a thousand feet of hose was destroyed at the recent disastrous fire. Too much cannot be said in praise of our firemen for the prompt manner in which they have ever responded to the alarm of fire, and the herculean efforts made to save the property of their fellow citizens. Another item that should not be overlooked in this connection is the fleetness and efficiency that our firemen have acquired by earnest practice, wherein the Dixon Hose Company has become famous, they having at two state tournaments secured the Champion's belt over many competitors.

Recent experience has made it apparent to all that our city needs better and more serviceable means for fire protection. Present indications are that this desired object will soon be accomplished, as practical movements are now being made to accomplish that desirable end.

With admirable perseverance the Dixon Hose Company have secured a fine library of nearly one thousand volumes, many of which were kindly donated by friends of the company. Citizens not members of the company become entitled to the privileges of the library by donating \$1, or a book worth \$1.50, subject to the approval of the company, and the payment of 50 cents yearly dues. A few weeks ago the Monitor Hook and Ladder Company commenced a library in their meeting-room, which already numbers over 100 volumes.

Mr. R. S. Farrand is the present fire marshal; J. W. Latta, assistant. Officers of the Hose company are C. C. Atkins, foreman; F. J. Finkler, first assistant; William Rock, second assistant; Nathan McKenney, secretary; Charles Weisz, treasurer. Officers of the hook and ladder company: Chas. Ramsey, foreman; Corydon

Cropsey, first assistant; U. R. Friesenberg, second assistant; J. A. Stumpf, secretary; G. W. Taylor, treasurer.

#### DISASTERS.

It would be a pleasure we have never experienced as yet to be able to write the history of a community or city that has had uninterrupted prosperity; to be favored with the good without an admixture of evil. Dixon is not an exception to the common experience of humanity in adversity as well as in prosperity; and however unpleasant the task may be, we are compelled to turn aside from the reflection of Dixon's prosperity and enterprise to chronicle her misfortunes and losses. The most common destruction to property resulted from

*The Fire Records.* The first conflagration of especial note was on August 2, 1856, when the stable belonging to the Mansion House property burned down. It was believed to be the work of an incendiary, which consumed the building with eleven horses, a peddler's wagon, etc.; the loss being about \$5,000. On Sunday, April 25, 1858, the jewelry store of S. A. Bancroft, in A. T. Murphy's building on Main street, was burned with all goods not in the safe.

In the following year, October 14, 1859, the city was visited by a fearful holocaust that consumed the property of more than twenty business men. Seventeen buildings were burned, extending for more than half a block on both sides of Main street, extending west from the corner of Hennepin street. Among the buildings burned was the old original school-house, which had been removed from the original lot where D. W. McKenney's residence now stands, several years previous, and was then occupied as a store-room. The fire resulted from an unknown incendiary, and resulted in over \$30,000 loss, with an insurance of but little over \$10,000. During the same year a dwelling house, owned by B. E. Deyo, was burned, with a loss of \$1,500, with no insurance.

On January 29, 1860, the machine shop, owned by Col. John Dement, was burned out, resulting in a loss of \$25,000, and no insurance. This damage was repaired in two months' time, the building being lowered one story because of damages done by the fire. This was followed in the same year by the burning of a carpenter shop, with four chests of tools, owned by Messrs. Herrick & Gordon; damage, \$350. And on October 3, in the following year, the dwelling house of H. Logan was burned by lightning; loss, \$600. In less than fourteen months the inhabitants of the quiet town were called from their slumbers at two o'clock in the morning to resist the fiery fiend, then leaping from the boot and shoe store

belonging to Mr. Sprauge. From this it swept through E. Giles' shoe house, a small building, and the stone building on the corner of Main and Galena streets, occupied by Mr. Roberts as a hat store. Mr. E. W. Hine's dwelling was saved only by the utmost exertions of the citizens. The stone building was owned by Champ Fuller, on which there was no insurance; the building occupied by Mr. Sprauge was owned by J. B. Charters, and was insured for \$400. The entire loss reached about \$5,500. In April of the following year the Union Block was lowered one story, the walls being unsafe for large assemblies after the fire of 1860.

On February 8, 1865, a dwelling house in Dement Town, owned by Col. J. Dement, was burned down about three o'clock in the morning. The building was occupied by a Mr. Peifer, who, in his efforts to save some valuables, lost his life by burning with the building. On June 2, 1866, the paint shop of W. J. Daley, on Hennepin street, was burned, at a loss of \$500.

Near five years passed without loss, but on March 3, 1871, a fire broke out in a building on the north side of Peoria street, occupied by Mr. Schuchart and family as dwelling and saloon. The building, with three other frame buildings on the west, a barn in the rear, belonging to Drs. Wyn and Paine, and F. C. McKenny's livery stable on the east, were all consumed. The estimated loss was \$4,000. On November 30, same year, the St. James Hotel burned. Insurance, \$22,500.

In the spring of 1873 (March 12) the knitting-mills were destroyed by fire, with the roof of the flax factory, with damage to machinery. The loss on the knitting-mills was estimated at \$20,000, and on the flax-mills \$5,000, making a total of \$25,000. In the following month (April 22, 1873) E. B. Stiles' dwelling on Main street, west of the arch, was damaged by fire to the extent of \$200.

On February 19, 1875, a dwelling house belonging to Henry Brener, in the south part of the first ward, was burned down; damage was not stated. On December 4 of this year a fire broke out in the upper story of Becker & Underwood's flouring-mills. The elevators at the top of the mill and much of the machinery were destroyed. Most of the machinery was damaged by fire, or water thrown by the fire department, which did valuable service in arresting the conflagration. The property was insured for \$32,700, and the amount awarded for damages on property was \$13,130. Messrs. Bennett, Thompson & Funk had large quantities of grain damaged by the water.

There was one fire, on April 10, 1876, which entirely destroyed the residence of Moses Jerome, in Dement Town. Loss not given.



In the following year (1877) John McElroy's house, in the same town, was destroyed by fire, at a loss of \$500 to the owner.

On February 6, 1878, a fire destroyed a business house on Main street owned by W. H. Van Epps, and occupied I. T. Van Ness, druggist, and Will. Sussmilch, jeweler. The loss on the building was about \$500; no insurance. There was \$3,500 insurance on the stock of drugs. Mr. Sussmilch lost about \$500 on fixtures, etc.; fully insured. F. Hegert's drug store, next door east, was considerably damaged by removal of goods, and by water.

On March 23, 1879, J. C. Mead's book-store caught fire about three o'clock A.M. The flames were extinguished after the upper story and roof were destroyed; goods were removed without much damage. The loss was about \$300; fully covered by insurance.

The year 1880 opened the fire record on January 13, when the home of Theodore Moeller was damaged to the amount of \$100. On the 8th of the following April, of the same year, the most disastrous fire that visited the city of Dixon broke out at the water-power about half-past one in the morning, and in one hour the large stone building owned by Caleb Clapp and Col. John Dement, occupied by H. D. Dement and S. C. Eell's flax-mill, and Thomas Baldwin's grist-mill, W. P. Thompson's and Becker & Underwood's flouring-mills, were a mass of ruins. The water-wheels and the pump house were also destroyed, thus cutting short the water supply; the foundry of Brown & Edwards on the opposite side of the street was badly burned, and the plow works of C. H. Curtis caught fire several times. The Amboy fire company was telegraphed to for help, and the timely arrival of the company with their steamer probably saved the property on the south side of the street.

When the fire reached Becker & Underwood's mill there was a terrific explosion; fifteen or twenty firemen were working in and around the mill at the time; two of the number were instantly killed and ten others badly burned and injured. The killed were Ezra Becker and William Schum. Wounded: Cyrus Lint, Wm. Rink, jr., Orvil Anderson, Peter Ramsey, William Vann, Patrick Duffy, Lee Stevens, Frank Getzenberger, Joe Hayden, and Joe Reuland.

The losses and insurance on buildings and machinery were as follows: Becker & Underwood, \$100,000; insurance, \$33,900 on machinery, and \$5,000 on stock. W. P. Thompson, \$35,000; insurance on machinery \$17,000, and \$5,000 on stock. Antone Julien carried \$5,500 on one fourth undivided interest in this mill. Col. John Dement from \$20,000 to \$25,000 on water-wheels, buildings

occupied by Dement & Eells, foundry, and Curtis' plow works; no insurance. H. D. Dement & S. C. Eells, from \$12,000 to \$15,000 on flax-mill machinery, stock, etc.; no insurance. Caleb Clapp, \$15,000; insurance \$6,000. Thomas Baldwin, \$3,500 on grist-mill machinery and stock; no insurance. Total loss from \$190,000 to \$198,000; insurance \$66,900.

The record begins August 2, 1856, and closes with the great fire of April 8, 1880, a period of twenty-four years; during which time there have occurred twenty-six fires resulting in damages amounting to \$302,000, and casualties, three deaths and ten wounded.

#### MANUFACTURING INTERESTS.

*Dixon Plow Works.*—These works were established in October, 1856, by Col. John Dement on the site now occupied by Vann & Means, carriage makers. The business was there carried on for several years and was then moved to its present location at the water power. The whole business was, at that time, done in the building afterward used as a blacksmith shop. From a small beginning the establishment grew in capacity and reputation, and obtained its highest importance under Col. Dement's management, in 1863 and 1864, when his plows took the first premium at the field trial of the State Agricultural Society, over all competitors, and he was awarded gold and silver medals; from which fact, until the retirement of Col. Dement from the business, the plows were known as "The Gold Medal." At this time began the wonderful series of improvements which in a few years changed the soft, rough German steel plow, then in general use, into the hardened, highly finished patent-steel implement of to-day. Except in modes of manufacture and improved material there has been but little change in the Dixon plow. The short, deep, round-topped mould-board then in use, now remains. At that time it was unique, peculiar to Col. Dement's "Shanghai" and the modified "Shanghai," or "Gold Medal." The real value of this pattern is strongly attested by the fact that its principal features are now used by every prominent manufacturer of plows in the northwest. In 1867 the business was transferred to W. M. Todd & H. D. Dement, who conducted it for two years, selling nearly their entire produce to F. K. Orvis & Co., then a firm in the agricultural implement trade in Chicago. In 1869 the whole business was sold to Messrs. Orvis & Co., who continued the manufacture of the various lines of goods, and added others from time to time, building up a large trade, extending over the entire northwest. They were succeeded by the Orvis Manufacturing Company, organized under the general laws of the state, May 12, 1877, which com-

pany, after two years and a half of largely increased trade, sold out to Charles H. Curtis, of Chicago, the president of the company and largest stockholder, on November 12, 1879. Mr. Curtis has been identified with large manufacturing interests in this state for nearly forty years, and with his usual energy has pushed the business to its utmost, adding new articles, such as seeders, drills, sulky plows, etc., all of which uphold the standard of excellence so long deservedly maintained by the Dixon Plow Works.

The works in 1880 occupied the greater portion of a magnificent factory building, erected by Col. John Dement in 1869. This building is solidly built of stone, and is four stories high on the front, measuring on the ground plan 86 x 142 feet. It is interesting to the older inhabitants of the county, who saw the beginning of this enterprise, to go through the works and notice the wonderful changes which a few years have made in the methods of manufacture and their products. In the beginning a few small rooms furnished ample space to carry on the different branches of work, which were mainly done by hand. Afterward each department became a complete establishment by itself, doing all the work by machinery, and turning out the parts assigned to it by the thousands, each piece being an exact duplicate of others of the same class. On the 8th of April, 1880, the works were damaged by fire, and business has not since been resumed.

*Grand Detour Plow Works.*—This well-known establishment was founded in 1837 at Grand Detour, by John Deere, now of Moline, Illinois, and Major Andrus, now deceased. They started what was styled a plow factory in a little blacksmith shop (such as may be seen at a country cross-road), and two forges were sufficient to meet their wants for some two years, when they became able to run an ordinary horse-power, for the purpose of turning the grindstone and fanning the furnace fire. The building in which these labor-saving arrangements were located stood some forty rods from the "factory" proper, and every plow ground and casting moulded had to be carried one way or the other, in the hand or on the shoulder, and the sight of the two proprietors lugging their work back and forth is called up with interest, in view of the great prosperity which each of them, by means of the same hard work and close management, ultimately attained. In this manner, and under these disadvantages, the business went on for about six years, when such success had attended the enterprise that they were enabled to put in steam. From this time forward they continued adding machinery and improvements, and their progress was uninterrupted. However, there were no means of sending their plows through the country except

by wagons, and few markets except the farm in even the best agricultural sections. Teams were loaded and sent throughout the country, and substantial farmers were supplied with plows, which they sold through the community, reserving a handsome commission for their services.

In 1848 Mr. Deere withdrew from the firm, which had experienced several changes, at one time presenting the array of Andrus, Deere, Tate & Gould, and started a plow factory at Moline, which grew and prospered from the first, and might with reason be termed a child of the Grand Detour Works. The business was run by Mr. Andrus alone, who was then joined by Col. Amos Bosworth, who, in our late war, was known as lieutenant-colonel of the 34th Illinois, and died in the service in March 1862.

In October, 1857, the factory, which had been steadily growing and extending its limits, was burnt down, and upon the same site and remnants of the walls a new factory was erected. In August, 1863, Theron Cumins, Esq., senior member of the present firm, became one of the proprietors, which took the name of Andrus & Cumins. Under their administration the business was carried on until February 1867, when Mr. Andrus died. Few men pass away more deeply and sincerely lamented than was Mr. Andrus. Upon his death the business passed into Mr. Cumins' hands, and was by him conducted until June 1869, when Col. H. T. Noble, of Dixon, became interested therein, the name of the firm being T. Cumins & Co.

In 1869 the works were moved to their present location at Dixon. In June, 1874, Mr. Dodge, for several years a merchant here, became interested therein, and the business was then conducted under the firm name of Cumins, Noble & Dodge. In June, 1879, the business was incorporated under the laws of the State of Illinois, the title being "Grand Detour Plow Company." Theron Cumins, Henry T. Noble, Orris B. Dodge and Charles H. Noble being the incorporators. The plow works, which in the first years only turned out from seventy-five to a hundred plows per year, are now producing many thousands, and scattering them by means of the steam horse over the limitless West. The works are located on a spacious triangular piece of land, between the depots of the Chicago & Northwestern and Illinois Central railroads, with switches from both roads running to the shops and warehouses. The factory has a frontage on the north of 206 feet, and to the west of 164 feet. The forging room is 116 × 50 feet; the grinding room, 44 × 50 feet; the machine room, 30 × 70 feet; the wood room, 150 × 50 feet; the foundry, 60 × 40 feet; and paint room on the second floor, 150 × 50 feet;



with a warehouse for storing purposes, 120  $\times$  50 feet, two stories high. The workmen connected with the works are men of large experience in the manufacture of agricultural implements, many of whom have been identified with this establishment for ten, fifteen and twenty years, and some for even a quarter of a century. The good name fairly earned by the Grand Detour Plow is more than sustained by the very superior quality of goods now being made by the Grand Detour Plow Company.

*Sash, Door and Blind Factory.*—In 1868 James Fletcher erected the building he now occupies, and commenced the manufacture of sash, doors and blinds on quite an extensive scale. The factory building is 36  $\times$  60 feet, and four stories high. Everything is done by machinery, so that all that is done to a door, sash or blind by hand is to put it together and smooth it up and sandpaper it. Every tenon is cut by a machine that is set to fit the mortise, and every tenon is just exactly the same size and shape, as is also every mortise. The machinery used by Mr. Fletcher is all of modern manufacture, with late improvements; comprising such machines as planers, mortising, boring and sticking machines, saw-tables, sharpers, formers, etc. His trade is mostly confined to this city, his present facilities being too small to supply a large foreign trade, yet he does sell stock to many of the neighboring towns. It is seldom that the busy hum of the saws at Fletcher's mill are not heard upon working days, and among the most industrious of those working in this mill is the proprietor himself. The excellence of the work turned out by this factory is deserving of great success.

*The Dixon Water Power.*—In the year 1844 the agitation of the subject of building a dam across Rock river at this point was commenced, and about the year 1845 resulted in a survey being made by one Woodworth, who reported a fall in the river from Grand Detour of nine and a half feet, and that the erection of a dam at this place was not a difficult undertaking. Subsequently, probably in 1846, a charter was obtained to organize the Dixon Dam and Bridge company, and in the fall and winter of 1846-7 the bridge was built. We have seen how this first bridge fared. Subsequently a new charter was obtained and a company organized in 1848, under the name of the Rock River Hydraulic Company, for the purpose of constructing a dam, but for some reason the work was not immediately carried forward. In August, 1849, application was made to the county commissioner's court for a writ of *ad quod damnum* in accordance with the law in regard to proposed mill-dams; a jury of twelve disinterested men was summoned, who met in September and declared in favor of the building of the proposed dam. The company entered

into negotiations with Messrs. Hanchet & Dalston, of Beloit, Wisconsin, which resulted in a contract on the part of these gentlemen to build the dam for a bonus of \$1,500. They immediately commenced work; they were allowed to help themselves, without charge, to such material as the woods and quarries afforded, and were to own the dam when completed. Although provision was made for a five-foot dam in the preliminary proceedings, it at first was built only two feet and a half high, but was found to be inadequate to furnish the power needed and was soon raised higher. It was built of brush or young trees, stone and gravel, and was soon finished. Although Hanchet & Dalston had acquired the ownership of the work, they were unable to retain it, by reason of the indebtedness that they had incurred in its construction. Mr. J. B. Brooks had furnished their employees with goods from his store, and Col. Dement had provided funds, until the demands of these two gentlemen were more than the firm could liquidate. As a matter of security, therefore, Messrs. Dement and Brooks eventually acquired the entire ownership of the dam, and Hanchet & Dalston retired. A saw-mill was built at the north end of the dam at the same time, by Mr. Christopher Brookner. The building that, previous to the great fire of April 8, 1880, was known as the Becker & Underwood mill was commenced by Brooks & Dement as soon as they had become owners of the dam. Col. Dement sold his interest in the mill, and acquired Brooks' interest in the dam, and the mill was afterward run by Brooks & Daley. Dement then built the foundry and the present race, and laid the foundation for what, prior to the fire mentioned above, was known as the flax-mills and the flouring-mills of Thompson & Co., both of which were afterward built by Chas. Godfrey, Esq. Col. Dement, since the war, also built the plow works and the flax-mills on the south side of the race. Mr. Godfrey not only built the flouring-mill mentioned, but purchased the Becker & Underwood mill of Brooks & Daley, and a large interest in the water-power.

The dam withstood the tide for two or three years without requiring any considerable repair. Breaches were not infrequent, but in every instance they were readily mended and the proprietors, after years of experience and observation, have gained a knowledge of the current and bed which has at last enabled them to construct a first-class dam, seven feet in height, against which water and ice seem to be powerless.

From Grand Detour to this place, a distance of nine miles, there is a fall of nine and a half feet, with a volume of 7,355 cubic feet of water per minute, at the lowest stages of the river. This has been ascertained to a certainty by J. M. Patrick, Esq., who measured it

and made estimates in 1863, when the river was very low. This would furnish a power equal to that of 3,000 horse. The fall at that time was five feet, and since then it has been raised to seven feet and two inches, which will nearly double the power. At least 5,000 horse power is attained. Calculating that it will require twenty horse power for one run of stone, we find that our water power is capable of propelling 250 run of very large stone. This calculation is made from the lowest stage of water—when the river is up to a medium stage the power almost doubles the above figures. It is estimated that the water used by our factories when they were all in operation was not perceptible in the flow of water over the dam. The capacity of the power already developed would be sufficient to run a line of factories on each side of the river that would reach from the dam to the railroad bridge. This places within the grasp of Dixon the banner of manufacturing towns in Illinois. Will she take it? By placing that portion of this water not needed by the present owners in the market at reasonable figures, new capital would be invested in it, and by the full employment of this immense power by capitalists, who have, and will feel, an increasing interest in the city, equal to the amount of their capital invested in the mechanical appliance of that power, all branches of industry and mercantile enterprises would be stimulated to such an extent that it would not be unreasonable to expect that in ten years Dixon would become a city of 15,000 or 20,000 inhabitants.

*The Flax Bagging Mill.*—Under the proprietorship of Col. John Dement is an establishment that cannot well be ignored in this sketch, as its relation to the manufacturing interests of Dixon is one of great importance. This mill is the first one of the kind established in the United States. The project was developed in 1865, and the mill erected in 1866. In February, 1867, the mill commenced operation under the proprietorship of Messrs. Jerome & Downing; a few months latter the firm name was changed to Dement & Jerome; but for some years Col. John Dement has been sole proprietor. Knowing the demand for the manufactured material, the mill was established on a large basis, and as soon as it commenced operation turned out 1400 yards of bailing cloth per day. The original building was of stone, 45 × 75 feet, two stories high. Running three years in this building and finding the demand so much greater than their facilities could supply, Dement & Jerome increased their capacity in 1870 by extending the factory building back sixty feet, making the whole building 45 × 140 feet, and increasing the capacity of the mill to its present immense business of 3,200 yards of bailing cloth per day. The factory now gives employment to fifty men, women and

girls. To illustrate the importance of this flax establishment and the number to whom it gives employment it will be necessary to go outside the mill. The flax bagging mill uses 9,000 pounds of tow per day, which Col. Dement manufactures himself from 36,000 pounds of flax straw, which is the product of twenty-five to thirty acres. The mill runs a full capacity for 280 days a year. This would make 1,260 tons of flax tow manufactured into baling cloth by this factory during the year, produced from 5,040 tons of straw, or the product of from 7,000 to 8,140 acres. The mill receives three car loads of tow per week, and ships two car loads of bagging. Most of the product of this mill is shipped south to Memphis and Louisville, and some to St. Louis, from which places it is distributed throughout the cotton-fields, where it is used to inclose the bales of cotton.

*The Becker & Underwood Mills.*—These mills stand unrivaled and alone as the only mills operated in this country on the complete Hungarian system, and are attracting flour manufacturers from the far east, west and north to witness the successful working of this wonderful machinery.

The building is 50 85 feet, six stories high, with basement. An elevator and cleaning room constitute the east wing, 22 × 36 feet, and five stories in height. This building the firm commenced on August 12, 1880, by five mechanics, which force was increased sufficiently to carry the entire building up together; the siding was worked from the inside, inclosing each story as it was raised. The work was managed with such skill by the proprietors that on February 10, 1881, a little less than six months from the time the work was commenced, the mill started, with all that wonderful combination of machinery extending from the cellar to the garret.

On the first floor are set thirty-five rolling-mills, through which the grain passes until reduced into the finest flour. Each roller is complete in itself and runs independent of the others, performing its own part of the reduction process, the grist having to pass through a number of these rollers before it is reduced to its finest state. These rollers are connected by conductors and elevators, through which the grist passes from one rolling-mill to another until perfected. The grain passes the first roller, where it is cracked and falls through to the basement, from which it is carried by elevators to the fifth floor, where it is separated from impurities and returns to the first floor to pass through the second roller, then to the upper floor as before; and continues in like manner until the full series is passed, consisting in all of eighteen operations or reductions. On this floor, besides the rolling-mills, are four flour packers.

On the second floor are sixteen stock hoppers and twenty-two



conveyors; and on the third floor there are nine bolting reels and eight purifiers. The fourth floor contains, also, eight bolting reels and eight purifiers, with three bran dusters and three aspirators by which the stock is cleansed from impurities through a suction process. The fifth floor is occupied by thirty-four bolting reels; and ascending to the sixth floor, or attic, we find it occupied by the machinery which drives belts and elevators in the mill below. The mill is capable of turning out 500 barrels of flour per day.

The cleaning room is situated between the mill and elevator, and is of the same height of the latter, which is five stories, with a cleaning mill on each floor. The elevator has a capacity of eighteen thousand bushels, and is driven in connection with the machinery in the cleaning room, by an independent wheel; having no connection with the power that drives the mill. In the basement of the cleaning room is being fitted up a Holly fire extinguisher as a means of protection from any accident by fire such as the firm experienced in 1880, when their former mill was destroyed in the great fire of that year. It is an establishment of which Dixon might well be proud.

#### THE FOUNDER OF DIXON.

John Dixon was the first white man to settle within the limits of what is now embraced in Lee county. He was a native of New York, born in the village of Rye, Westchester county, October 9, 1784. When twenty-one years of age he removed to New York city, and opened a clothing and merchant tailoring establishment, in which he continued in a successful trade for fifteen years. He was a member and one of the directors of the first Bible society organization in the United States. This was organized February 11, 1809, under the name of the "Young Men's Bible Society of the City of New York." While thus engaged, premonitory symptoms of pulmonary disease manifested themselves, making a change of climate necessary. Under the advice of his physician he disposed of his interests in the city, and in 1820, in company with Mrs. Dixon and children, and his brother-in-law, Chas. S. Boyd and family (now of Princeton, Illinois), set out for the then Great West — the western prairies. Leaving New York in a covered wagon, drawn by a single team, the emigrants passed through the States of New Jersey and Pennsylvania, to Pittsburgh, and there purchased a flat-boat, on which they embarked with their team and effects, and floated down the Ohio to Shawneetown, Illinois, then a little landing. Here they disembarked with their horses and goods, and after disposing of their boat proceeded with their wagon northwest, through pathless prairies and unbridged streams, to the vicinity in which is now Spring-



*John Crawford*



field. The prairie, now the present site of the state capital, was then an open wild, without a human dwelling, though a few pioneers had reared their cabins in the bordering woodlands. On Fancy creek, nine miles from the present site of Springfield, Mr. Dixon made his home at the close of his journey of over seventy days. Sangamon county was not then set off, and nearly all central and northern Illinois was embraced in the county of Madison. Early in the next year Sangamon county was formed; and the first court in the new county was held at the house of John Kelly, the oldest settler near the site of Springfield. John Dixon was appointed foreman of the grand jury. In 1825 Judge Sawyer, whose circuit nominally embraced northwestern Illinois, requested Mr. Dixon to take the appointment of circuit clerk and remove to Peoria, then often called Fort Clark, which he did, receiving also from Governor Coles the appointment of recorder of deeds for Peoria county, then just formed. Northern Illinois was not then divided into counties, and within the territory attached to Peoria county were the voting precincts of Galena and Chicago. This whole region, which now embraces thirty counties, then had but 1,236 inhabitants. While Mr. Dixon was at Peoria the government established a mail route from Peoria to Galena, crossing Rock river at the present site of Dixon, and going by way of Gratiot's Grove, in Wisconsin, to accommodate a little settlement there; mail to be carried once in two weeks on horseback. Mr. Dixon threw in a bid for the contract, which was accepted. In order to secure a passage for the mails over Rock river, he induced a man by the name of Ogee, a French and Indian half-breed, to establish a ferry at the point of crossing the river. This done, the travel to and from the lead mines so rapidly increased that Ogee's coffers became full—too full indeed for his moral powers to bear; the result was constant inebriation. To avoid the delays in the transmission of mails, which these irregularities entailed, Mr. Dixon bought the ferry from Ogee; and April 11, 1830, removed his family to this point. From that date the place, as a point for crossing the river, became known as "Dixon's Ferry." At that time a large portion of the Winnebago Indians occupied this part of the Rock river country. Mr. Dixon so managed his business relations with them as to secure their entire confidence and friendship, which, on the return of the Sacs and Foxes, under Black Hawk, in 1832, proved to be of inestimable benefit to himself and family. He was recognized by them as the "red-man's friend," and in accordance with the universal practice of the race, who always give names to persons and places, descriptive of some incident or attribute pertaining to them, called him "Nadah-churah-sah,"—



"Head-hair white," in allusion to his flowing white hair. It is also their custom to run compound words or sentences together, as in the case of this name, pronounced by them "Na-chu-sah." Mr. Dixon's influence over the moral habits of the Indians of the Rock River valley seriously curtailed the profits of the few Indian traders who had established posts there. They found but a poor market for the whisky with which they were wont to defraud the Indians out of their furs and other pelts. Owanico, or "Jahro," the Winnebago chief, who claimed and proved to be the "fast friend" of Mr. Dixon and family, became an active and energetic disciple of temperance. The advent of Black Hawk with his six hundred warriors, who were marching from the Des Moines river, in Iowa, up this valley, and who encamped at a spring a few hundred yards above the ferry (now flooded by the back-water of the mill-dam), gave the Winnebago chiefs abundant opportunity to manifest their fast friendship for the family of Mr. Dixon. During the campaign Mr. Dixon's intimate knowledge of his country, and of the character and habits of the Indian race, enabled him to render important services to the country. This seems to have been appreciated, and to have gained for him the personal friendship and esteem of gentlemen of world-wide reputation. Among these were Colonel Baker, who was killed in the early part of the rebellion, Albert Sidney Johnston, Zachary Taylor, Robert Anderson, afterward hero of Sumter, Jefferson Davis, Abraham Lincoln, Gen. Winfield Scott, and others. He entered the land upon which the most valuable part of the (now) city of Dixon stands, and in 1835 laid it off into town lots. In this connection it may not be improper to say that all the lands thus subdivided were disposed of from time to time, and the avails, instead of being hoarded up for individual use, have gone to build up the general interests of the city.

In 1838, when the general system of internal improvements in the state were adopted by the legislature, and a vacancy occasioned by the death of Col. Stevenson occurred in the state board of commissioners, he was appointed by Governor Duncan to fill the vacancy, and subsequently elected by the legislature a permanent member of the board; and although subsequent experience showed that the state had undertaken too much, resulting in failure, careful investigation manifested the fact that the business of the state board had been honestly and faithfully executed. While serving as commissioner an incident occurred to Mr. Dixon that will not be out of place to notice in this connection. The pay-rolls of the companies were made out and signed, and awaited Mr. Dixon to pay them off. It was his duty as commissioner to draw the money at Springfield

and pay the men. He had intrusted his draft on Springfield for collection to a contractor named Hamlin, who absconded with the proceeds, \$11,500. James P. Dixon and Smith Gilbraith started in pursuit, traveling by stage coach through many of the eastern states, but returned without success. Soon after James and Elijah Dixon renewed the search, traveling in Canada and the eastern and New England states, striking his trail once in Connecticut, but again losing it they returned to Dixon without recovering anything. In the meantime Mr. Dixon had raised the money and paid the amount to the state. Some time afterward Hamlin drew a prize of \$25,000 in a lottery. With this and his other ill-gotten gains he returned boldly to Galena and opened a store. Mr. Dixon at once instituted suit and recovered judgment for the \$11,500 and interest. The sheriff closed out all of Hamlin's goods that he could get possession of, which paid the costs and expenses of the search for Hamlin, and a few hundred dollars of the stolen money. In 1840 Mr. Dixon visited Washington with application for the removal of the land office from Galena to Dixon, and Gen. Scott, and perhaps other army officers, personal friends of Mr. Dixon, who had become familiar with the topography of the country during the Black Hawk war, promptly interested themselves in his behalf, and introduced him to President Van Buren, who at once signed the order for removal. Of his domestic life it is becoming to make but bare mention. His wife, formerly Rebecca Sherwood, of New York, a lady of superior mental capacity and energy, shared with her husband the toils and privations incident to frontier life, and exerted a moral and religious influence which will be felt in this region for all time. She, with all her children, ten in number, passed away before the husband and father. Mr. Dixon continued to live here in the city that he loved, where for nearly fifty years he had walked the Indian trail as well as paved streets, until his death, which occurred Thursday, July 6, 1876. His death was expected, as he had been gradually failing for several weeks; yet, when the muffled tones of the bell on Thursday morning announced the sad news that the beloved founder of the town had passed away, it carried sorrow to every heart, for old and young alike had learned to love and revere him as a father. His city made suitable arrangements for the funeral, which occurred on the next Sabbath. The services took place at the north front of the court-house, where platforms and seats had been erected for the purpose. Early in the day delegations composed of civic societies from neighboring cities arrived, each headed by a band of music. Many of the stores and public buildings were deeply draped in mourning. The body was laid in state at the court-house under

guard of Sir Knights Templar. The remains retained the pleasant features of life, and were looked upon for the last time by 10,000 people, who "loved with a love that was more than love" the good Father Dixon. The honor shown his remains in death was truly a worthy remembrance of a long life of purity and goodness. It has been the custom and inclination of the human race from the earliest historical ages to pay honors at burial ceremonies of military heroes and political leaders, and the men of wealth have often been thus honored and followed to their grave by the multitudes, but seldom in all these ages has there been such ovation and general marks of respect tendered to a man in the common walks of life as was witnessed at the obsequies of Father Dixon. It was emphatically an ovation of the masses, and especially of the old settlers of this and adjoining counties, who came to pay their respects to the last on earth of Father Dixon. It would reasonably be supposed that a man so universally loved and respected at his death as was Father Dixon never had an enemy in the world, but this was not so,—at least in his earlier days,—for in his long and active life he had battled earnestly and unflinchingly against evil in every form, and by such firmness for the right he did, as might be expected, antagonize men who could not understand, or, if they understood, had not the souls to appreciate those noble characteristics which raised him far above ordinary men. Yet it can be truly said that "none knew him but to love," or "named him but to praise," because those with whom he had met in the strife incident to life were at last led to acknowledge the nobleness of his character. It was not alone that he was unselfish, hospitable, kind and generous, patriotic and loving, which gained him the respect of all; but it was that, when in active life, he was always unswervingly for the cause of human progress and the right, and stubbornly opposed evil. Though his wife had passed away more than twenty-nine years before, and he had outlived all his children, and it could long since be truly said that

"The mossy marbles rest  
On the lips that he had prest  
In their bloom,  
And the names he loved to hear  
Had been engraved for many a year  
On the tomb,"

yet he was surrounded by kind and loving hearts and willing hands that administered to his every want. It was well, as a lesson to the generation of man coming after him, that such marked respect should be paid to the closing life of such a man. It was well that such a concourse of people should assemble here as had never before congregated in one day in this his own city. It was well that

the court-house and other public buildings should be deeply draped in the habiliments of woe, for a truly good man lay dead in its halls.

At a citizens' meeting held on Friday evening after Father Dixon's death, the following memorial was prepared and spread on the records of the city :

IN MEMORY OF JOHN DIXON.

We, the people of Dixon, called upon to mourn the departure of him who gave our city existence and its name, desire to place among its records this testimonial of our appreciation of his virtues. His neighbors,—many of us have known him for a third of a century,—who during all that time have looked up to him and have loved him as a father, with one accord have assembled to pay this tribute to his memory. John Dixon, after a life extended far beyond the life ordinarily assigned to man, at the ripe age of nearly ninety-two years, one-half of which had been passed in this town so loved by him, which he had made, has departed from the scene of his earthly labors. Having long outlived all that were, by the ties of blood, nearest and dearest to him, his weary pilgrimage at last is ended. He has gone to the summer land. A man of great strength of mind, force of character, and determination of purpose; yet he has lived and died without an enemy. Forgetful of himself, he lived for others, a pure and unselfish life. He was that noblest work of God—an honest man—and he has

“So lived that when the summons came to join  
The innumerable caravan, that moves  
To that mysterious realm where each shall take  
His chamber in the silent halls at death.  
He went, not as the quarry slave of night,  
Scourged to his dungeon; but sustained and sooth'd  
By an unfaltering trust, approached the grave  
Like one that wraps the drapery of his couch  
Around him and lies down to pleasant dreams.”

Born at the close of the revolution and rocked in his cradle when the “cradle of liberty” was swinging to and fro with a new-born nation, Father Dixon was imbued with all those noble principles of patriotism characteristic of that age, and which he retained through life. He lived to see his country grow from a vast wilderness, with only about the number of inhabitants contained in our state, to a great nation of forty millions. When he was born there was hardly a white inhabitant in all the great states of Kentucky, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and indeed the entire northwest, now the most flourishing part of the United States. A dozen years before, the American colonies were the most loyal part of the British empire, and on the political horizon no speck indicated the struggle that had just closed



and established the great republic of the world. There were then only about half-a-dozen newspapers in this vast country, while railroads, telegraphs and steam-engines had not entered into the remotest conceptions of man. It is indeed a very pertinent fact, in this connection, that when Fulton took his first steam-boat up the Hudson on a trial trip, John Dixon was a passenger, and paid the great inventor of steamboats the first money as fare ever received as a return for his immense expenses and time. So it was our own Father Dixon who paid the first steamboat fare ever paid; who was the first patron of steam, that now earns, every moment, its millions of dollars. Fulton at first refused to receive the money, but Father Dixon with his innate principles of justice, insisted that he should, and it was only by his determination to be just that gave him the satisfaction of being honored, as we said. He lived through a history in which has been allotted more important events, in their bearing upon the happiness of the world, than any other which has elapsed since the creation. Now he has gone down to his grave full of honors, such as any hero of any age might envy.

Mrs. Dixon was one of the few women who could and did adorn any position in life in which she was placed. Her person was rather under size, exhibiting no marked peculiarity. She was intelligent, far above the age and circumstances surrounding her, and had a warm heart and ready hand for every good word and work alike. Devout and fervent in all the holy exercises of religion and morality, ardently attached to the church (Baptist) to which she belonged, she gave her hand to all who bore the name and character of that great christian body. Her moral worth, talents, virtue, and her whole life, was one of devotion to christianity. She was Solomon's ideal of glorious womanhood before he was corrupted by the false glare and glitter of a false religion and an impure life. "As an early reminiscence of Mrs. Dixon's rare tact and knowledge of character, shall I venture to write that in the dead of winter, preceding the Black Hawk war, the prophet, from Prophetstown, Black Hawk, and a chief from Rock Island, whose name I have forgotten, held a council at Dixon's Ferry, and then and there negotiated with the Pottawatomies for the occupancy of the Spotted Arms' town near the present site of Rockford. Meal time came three times a day, to which the chiefs at the council fire were invited as guests of Mrs. Dixon. She presided as waiter, and, to allay any fears of her guests, sat down and ate and drank with them. The perfect lady was reminded by Black Hawk, as spokesman, of her goodness, and he called the attention of the other chiefs to her care and politeness to them."

## LEE COUNTY UNION VOLUNTEERS.

## THIRTEENTH REGIMENT.

The Thirteenth Infantry Illinois Volunteers was organized under the Ten-Regiment bill, at Dixon, Illinois, May 9, 1861, and went into camp on the fair grounds at Dixon. On the next day, after going into camp, the following regimental officers were elected: John B. Wyman, colonel, B. F. Parks, lieutenant-colonel, A. B. Gorgas, major. Colonel's staff consisted of A. W. Pitts, commissary, W. C. Henderson, quartermaster, J. L. McCleary, assistant quartermaster, H. T. Porter, adjutant, Dr. S. C. Plumer, surgeon, Dr. D. W. Young, assistant-surgeon, Rev. J. C. Miller, chaplain. The drawing of positions by the companies resulted as follows:

Dixon	Captain	H. T. Noble	Company	A
Sterling	"	D. R. Bushnell	"	B
Amboy	"	M. H. Messinger	"	C
Rock Island	"	Q. McNeil	"	D
Sandwich	"	S. W. Partridge	"	E
Sycamore	"	Z. B. Mayo	"	F
Morrison	"	G. W. Cole	"	G
Aurora	"	— Gardner	"	H
Chicago	"	S. W. Wadsworth	"	I
Du Page	"	W. Blanchard	"	K

This regiment was organized with 870 men, and was composed of companies from Dixon, Sterling, Amboy, Rock Island, Sandwich, Sycamore, Morrison, Aurora, Chicago, and Du Page. The regiment was organized for the three months service, but the call being made soon after for three-years volunteers, the regiment was mustered into the United States service under the last call, May 24, 1861, being the first regiment mustered into the three-years service.

Company A was the first company of volunteers raised at Dixon, and on April 22, 1861, they met at their armory and elected company officers: A. B. Gorgas, captain, Henry T. Noble, first-lieutenant, Henry Dement, second-lieutenant, Benjamin Gilman, first-sergeant, and O. M. Pugh, second-sergeant, and on the same day hoisted the union flag opposite the mayor's office. On April 25 the ladies of Dixon presented the company with a handsome banner, when assembled in front of the court-house. Miss Mary Williams (Mrs. H. D. Dement) delivered the presentation address.

Two other companies, the Dixon Cadets and the Dixon Blues, were organized within a few days, but their services were not needed on account of the regiments under the first call being full. Most of the members of these companies afterward enlisted and went to the war in other companies and regiments. On June 1, 1861, the ladies presented Co. A with uniforms made by their own hands.

Company C was organized at Amboy, electing as company officers as follows: Henry M. Messinger, captain, Nathaniel Neff, first lieutenant, George B. Sage, second lieutenant.

The two companies above, A and C, were of Lee county, while the other companies were from the different parts of the state as above given.

This regiment remained in camp at Dixon until Sunday, June 16, when they were ordered to Caseyville, Illinois; from thence to Rolla, Missouri, by rail, July 6. Here they remained until October 10, 1861, when they were ordered to Springfield, Missouri; and in thirty days (November 10) they were ordered back to Rolla. Here they went into winter quarters, and remained until March 16, 1862, when they were ordered to Arkansas; and leaving Rolla, Missouri, on the above date, they marched, via Springfield, to Pea Ridge, Arkansas; thence, via Kietsville, to Balesville, and thence to Helena, Arkansas, arriving on July 14, 1862. On December 27, 1862, they reached Chickasaw Bayou, being the first regiment to reach that battleground and lead in the assault against the enemy, on December 29, 1862. In this battle fell some of the brave boys of Lee county. On the 11th day of the following month (January 1863) they participated in the battle of Arkansas Post. Then followed the battle at Jackson, Mississippi, May 22, 1863, in which they were engaged; and on the 22d of the same month they participated in the assault on the rebel works before Vicksburgh. From here they returned to Jackson, Mississippi, and participated in the siege of that city, July 1863. They were in the battles of Tuscumbia, October 26 and 27, 1863. From there to Lookout Mountain, November 24; thence to Mission Ridge on the following day (November 25); two days later (November 27, 1863) they were in the battle of Ringgold, Georgia. In the following spring (May 1864) they were in the battle of Madison, Alabama.

Their term of service having expired, they returned to Springfield, Illinois, and were mustered out of the service of the United States on June 18, 1864.

Veterans were transferred to the 56th Illinois Volunteers, among whom were some of the Lee county soldiers, which will be noted in the following table. Mark M. Evens, of Dixon, was mustered in as captain of Co. I in the 56th regiment, as above, and was mustered out of the service at the close of the war, under date of August 12, 1865.

*Officers Roll at the Close of Service.*—Col. John B. Wyman, Amboy, killed in battle of Chickasaw Bayou, December 28, 1862.

Lieut.-Col. Benjamine F. Parks, Dixon, resigned June 24, 1861.

Major, Adam B. Gorgas, Dixon, promoted June 25, 1861, to lieutenant-colonel, and to colonel December 29, 1862; term expiring June 18, 1864.

Second Assistant Surgeon, David H. Lane, resigned November 15, 1862, to accept commission as surgeon in 9th Cav., Mo. Vols.

Chaplain, Joseph C. Miller, Amboy, was honorably discharged September 4, 1863.

*Company A.*—Captain, Henry T. Noble, Dixon, promoted by the President, July 8, 1863.

Second Lieut., Henry D. Dement, Dixon, was promoted to first lieutenant April 27, 1861, and resigned August 1, 1863.

First Sergeant, Geo. L. Aiken, Dixon, was promoted second lieutenant March 1, 1862, and died April 2, 1863.

Sergeant, Adanaran J. Pinkham; was promoted second lieutenant June 11, 1863, and was promoted captain August 1, 1863.

Sergeant, Henry Van Houton, discharged November 30, 1863, to accept commission as major of 3d Arkansas Cavalry.

The following privates in Co. A were promoted: Sherman A. Griswold, Lee Center, was discharged to be promoted to second lieutenant in 1st Missouri Cavalry; Jedediah Shaw, Dixon, as corporal; Charles W. Snider, Dixon, as sergeant-major; William Irwin, Dixon, as sergeant; Mark Evens, as first lieutenant; Jonathan H. Crabtree, Dixon, as corporal; John H. Brubaker, Dixon, as first sergeant; Henry B. Anderson, Dixon, as corporal, and Alx. Pitts as sergeant.

#### THIRTY-FOURTH INFANTRY REGIMENT.

On September 2, 1861, five companies left Dixon for the army, and were organized in the 34th Illinois Infantry Volunteers, at Camp Butler, a few days after. The companies leaving Dixon at this time were Co. A, from Sterling, commanded by E. B. Ward; Co. B, from Morrison, H. W. Bristol, captain; Co. C, from China, Lee county, Alx. Dysart, captain; Co. D, from Dixon, T. L. Pratt, captain; and Co. F, from Grand Detour.

Companies C and D were made up of Lee county boys, while a number were received in other companies of this regiment.

The 34th Illinois Infantry Volunteers was organized at Camp Butler, September 7, 1861, by Col. E. N. Kirk. On October 2 moved to Lexington, Kentucky, and from thence to Louisville, and then to camp Nevin, Kentucky, where it remained until February 14, and was afterward hotly engaged in the battle of Shiloh, losing Major Levenway and fifteen killed, and one hundred and twelve wounded. From here they moved to Iuka and Florence. They crossed the river at that place and moved to Athens, Huntersville and Steven-



son, Alabama; thence to Battle Creek, where they were encamped over a month.

Leaving Battle Creek they marched to Louisville, Kentucky, arriving September 27, 1862. October 1, 1862, left Louisville for Frankfort. October 4 was engaged in a skirmish at Claysville, Kentucky. From Frankfort moved to Nashville. November 27 had a skirmish at Lavergne. Regiment remained in camp five miles southeast of Nashville until December 26, 1862.

On leaving the above camp they moved on to Triune, near which place they became engaged with the enemy on December 27. On the 29th they moved toward Murfreesboro, and on the 30th took position on the extreme right of the Union lines. On the following day, December 31, 1862, the enemy attacked the regiment in overwhelming force, driving it back on the main line. Many of the regiment were captured; twenty-one killed, twenty-three wounded, and sixty-six missing.

During the three following days the regiment did guard duty.

On June 25, 1863, they were engaged in a battle near Liberty Gap, losing three killed and twenty-six wounded.

The regiment was now in the 20th Army Corps. On the 26th it moved to Manchester, entering Tullahoma on the morning of July 1. August 10, moved to Bellefonte, Alabama. The 34th was detailed as provost guard; 30th, moved to Caxertain's ferry, on Tennessee river. Here the regiment was left to guard the pontoon bridge. September 18, moved the boats to Battle Creek. October 20, 1863, moved to Anderson's Cross-roads, in Sequatchie valley. November 8, moved to Harrison's Landing, on Tennessee river. Arrived at Chattanooga the 15th, and camped on Moccasin point. November 25th, ordered to join the brigade on the battle-field of Chattanooga. Moved by Chickamauga Station; met the retreating enemy near Graysville, and was engaged about half an hour. 28th, moved back to Chattanooga, where those unable to march were put in camp; the remainder of the regiment moving on the expedition into East Tennessee, as far as Loudon, where the 34th was detailed to run a grist-mill, grinding corn and wheat for the division. Returned to Chattanooga, arriving December 19, 1863.

December 22, the 34th was mustered as a veteran organization. Received veteran furlough, and rendezvoused at Dixon, Illinois, arriving January 21, 1864. February 28, started to Chattanooga, arriving March 17, and moved out to join the second brigade, in camp near Roseville, Georgia. Mustered out July 12, 1865, at Louisville, Kentucky. Arrived at Chicago, July 16, for final payment and discharge.

*Officers' Roll—Company C.*—Captains: Alex T. Dysart, China, promoted major, then to colonel; Benson Wood, China, resigned January 29, 1863; Peter F. Walker, Bradford, promoted major; L. W. Rosecrans, China, mustered out July 1865.

First Lieutenants: Benson Wood, China, promoted; P. F. Walker, Bradford, promoted; J. W. Williams, China, mustered out November 5, 1864; L. N. Black, China, killed in battle March 1865; David Wingert, China, mustered out July 12, 1865.

Second Lieutenants: P. F. Walker, Bradford, promoted; J. W. Williams, China, promoted; B. F. Dysart, China, mustered out November 5, 1864; L. W. Rosecrans, China, promoted.

*Company D.*—Captains: T. L. Pratt, Dixon, resigned August 18, 1862; William S. Wood, Dixon, resigned April 14, 1864; S. B. Dexter, Amboy, mustered out November 8, 1864; Charles Eckles, Palmyra, mustered out July 12, 1865.

First Lieutenants: William Wood, Dixon, promoted; S. B. Dexter, Amboy, promoted; Francis Forsyth, Dixon, mustered out; H. A. Jeffs, Franklin, mustered out July 12, 1865.

Second Lieutenants: S. B. Dexter, Amboy, promoted; Francis Forsyth, Dixon, promoted; Charles Eckles, Palmyra, promoted; Spencer Conn, mustered out July 12, 1865.

#### FORTY-SIXTH INFANTRY REGIMENT.

Company D of this regiment was organized with the following officers: William F. Wilder, of Sublette, captain; Joel L. Coe, of Amboy, first lieutenant, and Henry H. Woodbury, of Amboy, second lieutenant. This company consolidated with Co. I, March 7, 1863.

Company H was also largely a representative of Lee county, as it contained a number of soldiers in its ranks from among her sons. Captain John Stevens, of Dixon, commanded, and Thomas A. Pieronnett, first lieutenant, was from Amboy.

In Company I we find the names of Lee county citizens among the commissioned officers as well as in the ranks.

The 46th was organized at Camp Butler, Illinois, December 28, 1861, by Col. John N. Davis. It was ordered to Cairo, Illinois, on February 11, 1862. From thence proceeded via Cumberland river to Fort Donelson, Tennessee, arriving on the 14th, and was assigned to command of Gen. Lew Wallace. 16th, moved through the works and to Dover. 19th, moved to Henry. On March 16 it embarked for Pittsburg Landing, where it arrived on the 18th. The regiment was now in the second brigade and fourth division.

In the battle of Shiloh the 46th took a most conspicuous and

honorable part, losing over half of its officers and men in killed and wounded ; it received the thanks of the commanding generals.

The regiment was engaged during the month of May in the siege of Corinth.

On June 2 the regiment camped six miles west of Corinth. On the 10th it marched to the Hatchie river ; on the 15th passed through Grand Junction, and camped three miles from town ; on the 24th moved to Collarbone Hill, near La Grange, and on the 30th moved to the old Lamar church.

On July 1 it marched to Cold Water, and returned on the 6th ; on the 17th moved toward Memphis, and marching via Moscow, Lafayette, Germantown and White's Station, camping two miles south of Memphis on July 21, and on August 27 engaged in the scout to Pigeon Roost. On September 6, the following month, the regiment moved from Memphis toward Brownsville, and continuing the march via Raleigh, Union Station, the Big Muddy river was reached on the 9th. On the 11th the command was again on the move via Hampton Station, Danville, Whiteville, Pleasant Creek, and Bolivar to Hatchie river, where all the troops on the river were reviewed by Gen. McPherson on September 27.

On October 4 the command was again on the move toward Corinth, and met the enemy at Metamora. The 46th was on the right of second brigade, supporting Bolton's battery. After an hour's shelling by the batteries the infantry were ordered forward, and at a double-quick advanced, driving the enemy across the river. The first brigade coming up, "Hurlbut's fighting fourth division" advanced and drove the enemy from the field, compelling his flight. Col. John A. Davis, of the 46th, and Lieut. M. R. Thompson fell mortally wounded, both expiring on the 10th. After the battle the regiment returned to Bolivar.

On November 3 they marched to La Grange, where they remained until the 28th, when they moved to Holly Springs ; and two days after they moved toward the Tallahatchie river, and camped near Waterford, Mississippi, where winter quarters were fitted up with mud chimneys and bake-ovens complete. But these were only completed in time to move away from them ; for on December 11 they crossed Hurricane Creek, and on the following day advanced to Yocony Station, where they remained until December 22, when they marched to Taylor's Station.

Van Dorn having captured Holly Springs, the regiment marched on the 22d via Oxford to Hurricane Creek, and on the following day, 24th, the 46th Illinois, and 33d Wisconsin moved, as train guard, to

north side of Tallahatchie river. Here they tarried but two days, and on the 26th moved camp four miles nearer Holly Springs, between Waterford and Wyatt Station. This closed movements for 1862, but on January 6, 1863, they moved to Holly Springs, and on the 10th the 46th and the 15th were an escort to ammunition train to La Grange, from which they marched on the 13th to Moscow, where they remained until February 5, when they moved to Lafayette.

After rejoining the brigade at Lafayette they moved on March 9, via Collierville and Germantown, to Memphis.

On April 21, 1863, they engaged in the expedition to Hernando, and returned the 24th, where they remained until May 13, when they embarked for Vicksburg, and on the 15th landed at Young's Point; on the 18th marched to Bower's Landing; on the 19th moved to Sherman's Landing, and on the 20th moved, by steamer, up the Yazoo to Chickasaw Bayou, where they disembarked and moved across the swamp to the bluff. May 21 they proceeded to the left of Gen. Grant's army; 24th, marched in the direction of Vicksburg; 25th, marched to the extreme left of the line. The regiment was detailed on picket duty, and during the night the outpost (five companies) were captured by the enemy. One hundred and four men and seven officers were taken, seventy escaping. The remainder of the regiment took an active part in the siege of Vicksburg. July 12, in the siege of Jackson, moved into position at extreme right of line. Engaged in the siege until the 16th, when the enemy evacuated Jackson; after which the regiment returned to Vicksburg. August 8, moved to Natchez; September 1, went on expedition into Louisiana; returned on the 8th.

January 4, 1864, the 46th was mustered as a veteran regiment. 12th, started north and on the 23d arrived at Freeport, Illinois, where the regiment was furloughed.

#### SIXTY-NINTH INFANTRY REGIMENT.

Company H, of the 69th Illinois Volunteers, was organized at Dixon for the three-months service. The officers for this company from Lee county were James W. Reardon, captain, Dixon; Eli B. Baker, first lieutenant, Dixon; Edwin F. Bennett, second lieutenant, Dixon; John D. Heaton, first sergeant, Dixon; L. M. Keyms, sergeant, Dixon; Edward Perkins, sergeant, Dixon; P. C. Williams, sergeant, Franklin Grove; George D. Black, sergeant, Franklin Grove; Germanus Knepper, corporal, Dixon; George Johnson, corporal, Franklin Grove; Hanibal Keen, corporal, Franklin Grove; John Little, corporal, Dixon; L. H. Moore, corporal, Dixon; Uriah



Stroup, corporal, Dixon; Jerome A. Martin, corporal, Dixon; Joseph Ledger, corporal, Dixon.

*Company K.*—Wm. H. Tousley, first lieutenant, Amboy; H. T. Pratt, sergeant, Amboy; E. W. Patten, sergeant, Amboy; L. W. Waterbury, sergeant, Lee Center; Jas. A. Martin, sergeant, Amboy.

There were forty-four in the ranks of this regiment from Lee county.

#### SEVENTY-FIFTH INFANTRY REGIMENT.

The 75th Illinois Volunteers was organized at Dixon, Illinois, on September 2, 1862, by Col. George Ryan.

Ordered to Louisville, Kentucky, September 27. Was brigaded with 30th brigade, Col. Post; 9th division, Gen. Mitchell, of Buell's army.

October 1, marched in pursuit of Bragg. October 8, engaged in the battle of Chaplain Hills, losing 47 killed, 166 wounded, and 12 prisoners. Marched to Crab Orchard, Col. Wookruff assuming command of the division. Returned, via Lebanon and Bowling Green, to Nashville, Gen. Jeff. C. Davis taking command of the division. Encamped four miles from Nashville, on the Lebanon Pike, November 7, 1862; since which time no historical memorandum is given in the adjutant-general's reports.

Mustered out June 12, 1865, at Camp Harker, Tennessee, and arrived at Chicago June 15, 1865, where the regiment received final payment and discharge.

Major—James A. Watson, mustered in February 3, 1863; mustered out June 12, 1865.

Adjutant—Jerome Hollenbeck, mustered in September 2, 1862; resigned December 19, 1862.

Quartermaster—John E. Remington, mustered in September 2, 1862; resigned for promotion, November 24, 1863.

Surgeon—George Phillips, mustered in September 18, 1862; resigned May 10, 1863.

*Company A.*—Captain: James A. Watson, mustered in September 2, 1862; promoted major. Mustered out June 12, 1865.

First Lieutenant—Ezekiel Giles, mustered in September 2, 1862; promoted captain. Resigned May 23, 1863.

Second Lieutenant—William Parker, jr., mustered in September 2, 1862; promoted first lieutenant. Promoted captain, May 23, 1863. Mustered out June 12, 1865.

First Sergeant—Frederick A. Headley, mustered in September 2, 1862; promoted second lieutenant. Promoted first lieutenant. Honorably discharged May 15, 1865.

Sergeants — Alfred K. Buckaloo, mustered in September 2, 1862; promoted second lieutenant; died March 24, 1864. Horace Judson, mustered in September 2, 1862; reduced; mustered out June 12, 1865. William J. Cogswell, mustered in September 2, 1862; discharged March 8, 1863; disability. Joseph A. Hill, mustered in September 2, 1862; discharged May 28, 1863; disability.

Corporals — John William, mustered in September 2, 1862; died at Richmond, Virginia, June 3, 1864, while a prisoner of war. Louis H. Burket, mustered in September 2, 1862; promoted sergeant-major. Edwin J. Jones, mustered in September 18, 1862; deserted October 3, 1862. Isaac E. Barr, mustered in September 18, 1862; mustered out June 12, 1865. George M. Putnam, mustered in September 18, 1862; mustered out June 12, 1865, as first sergeant. Ezra Cooper, mustered in September 18, 1862; sergeant; died January 12, 1865. David H. Wagner, mustered in September 18, 1862; mustered out June 12, 1865, as sergeant. Anthony Zimmer, mustered in September 18, 1862; reduced. Absent, sick, at muster out of regiment.

Musicians — James L. Backus, mustered in September 18, 1862; mustered out June 12, 1865. David Freeman, mustered in September 18, 1862; discharged May 28, 1863; disability.

*Company E.*—This company was organized at Amboy with volunteers from the central part of the county.

Captains — Wm. S. Frost, mustered in September 2, 1862; discharged January 23, 1865. J. H. Blodget, mustered in February 16, 1865; mustered out.

First Lieutenants — F. H. Eels, mustered in September 2, 1862; killed in battle. J. H. Blodget, mustered in April 23, 1863; promoted. James Dexter, mustered in February 17, 1865; mustered out.

Second Lieutenants — J. H. Blodget, mustered in September 2, 1862; promoted. Jas. Dexter, promoted.

*Company F—Amboy.* Captains: A. S. Vorey, mustered in September 2, 1862; died August 14, 1864. James McCord, mustered in April 1, 1865; mustered out June 12, 1865.

First Lieutenant — Jas. Tourtillott, mustered in April 1, 1865; resigned. Jas. D. Place, promoted.

*Company G—Franklin Grove.*—Captains: Joseph Williams, mustered in September 2, 1862; resigned. R. L. Irwin, mustered in May 20, 1864; mustered out June 12, 1865.

First Lieutenant — R. L. Irwin, not mustered; resigned.

Second Lieutenant — R. L. Irwin, mustered in September 2, 1862; promoted. Wm. Vance, mustered in May 3, 1863; promoted.

But few regiments that entered the service met the enemy in desperate battle so soon after enlistment as did the 75th. Mustered in on September 2; on October 1 marched in pursuit of Gen. Bragg, and on the 8th engaged with the enemy, in which conflict the Lee county boys suffered severely. Lee Center and Sublett were largely represented among the dead on the battle-field. Many died from wounds received in the battle.

#### ONE HUNDRED AND FORTIETH INFANTRY REGIMENT.

The 140th Infantry Illinois Volunteers was raised for the one-hundred-days service, and went into camp at Dixon about May 1, 1864. June 16 the regiment was ordered to Springfield, where it was immediately sworn into the service, and ordered to Paducah, Kentucky. The regiment serving the full time of enlistment, it was mustered out October 26, 1864. The officers from Lee county were as follows :

Colonel — Lorenzo Whitney, Dixon; mustered out October 29, 1864.

Quartermaster. — Geo. W. Bishop, Dixon, mustered out October 29, 1864.

Surgeon — Geo. W. Phillips, Dixon; mustered out October 29, 1864.

*Company E*. — Captain: Ezekial Giles, Dixon; mustered out October 29, 1864.

First Lieutenant — Joseph Ball, Dixon; mustered out October 29, 1864.

Second Lieutenant — John L. Skinner, Amboy; mustered out October 29, 1864.

#### “CHENEY’S BATTERY,” FIRST ILLINOIS ARTILLERY.

Battery F, First Illinois Light Artillery, was recruited at Dixon, Illinois, in January 1862, by Capt. John T. Cheney, and was mustered in at Springfield, February 25.

Moved to Boston barracks, Missouri, March 15, with four six-pound guns. April 1, was ordered to Pittsburg Landing, Tennessee, and arrived April 9, and was assigned to Maj. Gen. Lew. Wallace’s third division, army of the Tennessee.



*Mr. W. Bethea*





Was engaged in the siege of Corinth, and June 9 marched for Memphis, arriving on the 18th. November 26, moved from Memphis and arrived from the Tallahatchie river December 2. On the 11th, in Denver's division, went on the Yocona expedition, returning to Tallahatchie river, and finally to Holly Springs, Mississippi.

March 7, 1865, battery F was consolidated with other batteries of the regiment.

Officers from Lee county were John T. Cheney, captain, promoted major; J. H. Burton, first lieutenant, promoted captain; J. T. Whaley, second lieutenant, promoted first lieutenant; Theodore W. Raub, second lieutenant, killed in battle; Robert Richey, second lieutenant, mustered out March 7, 1865; J. Q. Yates, second lieutenant, not mustered.

Besides the regiments here noted as containing Lee county soldiers, there were many volunteers who enlisted in other regiments in different departments of the service. In the infantry ranks, Lee county was represented in seventeen regiments besides those above mentioned, ranging from No. 10 to No. 152. Ten cavalry regiments contained Lee county boys, as well as Burnside's marine artillery McClellan's dragoons, etc. From the Atlantic to the prairies of Missouri, and from the Ohio river to the gulf on almost every battle-field were found the brave sons of Lee county nobly fighting for their country.

*Patriotism at home.*—The patriotism of Lee county was awakened by the news of the firing on Fort Sumter, and on April 17, 1861, there appeared in the Dixon "Telegraph" the following note: "War Feeling in Dixon.—While we are writing, the people, without distinction of party, are in council. Great enthusiasm prevails. A company is forming. The action of the administration is to be sustained."

An association was formed called "the volunteer aid association," for the purpose of rendering aid to the families of absent volunteers, and on June 20, 1861, they reported a subscription to the fund of \$2,625.

In the autumn of 1861 a camp for recruiting and organizing troops was established at Dixon, on the banks of the river west of the railroad. Col. W. H. Hayden, commander of post, and Col. John De-ment, commander of the encampment. On May 21, 1863, John V. Eustace was appointed provost-marshal for this congressional district.

Relief societies were organized, and appropriations made by the county board of supervisors, for the relief of the families of absent volunteers. Military scrip was issued for the payment of bounty

offered by the board of supervisors for Lee county. At the January term of the board it was reported by the committee on said scrip that \$6,000 had been distributed as designed.

At the November term, 1863, the board of supervisors of the county offered a bounty of \$100 to every accepted volunteer from Lee county, and at the November term of the court, 1863, an appropriation was made for the same purpose, and spread upon the register the following preamble and resolution, to wit :

*Whereas*, Our government has found it necessary to make another call upon the people of the loyal states for three hundred thousand more men wherewith to crush out the existing rebellion in our land; and

*Whereas*, the State of Illinois has heretofore, by patriotism of her noble sons in voluntarily enlisting in the army of the Union, escaped the necessity of drafting (furnishing more men than her quota, under all the preceding calls) ; and

*Whereas*, we, the board of supervisors of Lee county, have assembled for the special purpose, and being desirous that her proud name, which the sons of Illinois now battling for our country have made for our state, should still be maintained by voluntary enlistments, and especially desirous that our county of Lee, second to none in the state for patriotism, should only be represented in our army by volunteers; it is therefore

*Resolved*, That we offer to each and every duly accepted volunteer from the county of Lee a county bounty of the sum of \$100.

There being a scarcity of funds in the treasury with which to pay these proffered bounties, the board subsequently ordered that bonds not to exceed \$20,000 be issued to provide for the same.

It subsequently appears as a matter of record that there was but \$15,000 issued in bonds for this purpose.

At the February term of the supervisors' court it was reported that \$4,061.50 had been distributed as a relief fund to families of volunteers.

At a special term of the board held in October, 1864, the following resolution was offered by John J. Higgins, and was adopted by fifteen for to four against, to wit :

*Resolved*, That the board of supervisors of Lee county, for the purpose of aiding those men who have enlisted, or may enlist on or after the third day of October, A.D. 1864, under the call of the president of the United States, made on the 18th day of July, A.D. 1864, for 500,000 men, do hereby appropriate, in addition to the bounty of \$100 offered at the annual session of the board on the 14th day of September, A.D. 1864, the sum of \$900 to each and every man so

enlisting or volunteering to fill said call ; and the clerk of this board is hereby authorized, empowered and directed to issue county orders to an amount not to exceed the sum of \$150,000, including the sum of \$25,500 appropriated on the 14th day of September, A.D. 1864."

At the same meeting of the board, on motion of supervisor Gaston, the clerk of the board was authorized and directed to draw orders on the county treasury in sum not to exceed \$2,000 for the relief of the families of volunteers, in sums not to exceed \$100 each, and to be placed in the hands of the agents (who had been previously appointed by the board) for the distribution of the relief fund.

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### DIXON TOWNSHIP.

Dixon township originally embraced South Dixon, Nelson, and a part of Nachusa township ; the survey embracing T. 21 N., R. 9 E., which is situated and lying in Lee county ; and part of T. 22 N., R. 9 E., which is situated and lying in Lee county ; also that part of T. 21 N., R. 8 E., that is south of Rock river. It has since been limited to a much smaller area by creating out of its original territory, Nelson, South Dixon and the northwest part of Nachusa townships. The present town of Dixon is located in the northwest quarter of the county of Lee ; being bounded on the north by Ogle county, on the east by Nachusa, on the south by South Dixon, and on the west by Palmyra township ; and may be described as follows : beginning at the range line between eight and nine east, on the county line between Lee and Ogle counties, and extending east on said line to Rock river ; thence up said river to a point half a mile east of section-line three east ; thence south to the center of section thirty-five ; thence east one mile to the center of section thirty-six ; thence south one mile to the center of section two, township twenty-one north, range nine east ; thence west half a mile to section line between sections two and three ; thence south half a mile to section line ; thence west to range line between eight and nine east ; thence north on said line to the place of beginning. The northern line is irregular, as it follows the river course where it makes a detour north and south ; and the eastern boundary is made to deviate from a direct line for local accommodations. It is four and a half miles at its widest point east and west, and six north and south, embracing an area of about nineteen square miles.

The natural scenery of Dixon township surpasses, in beauty and variety, any other township in Lee county, presenting a series of rugged bluffs, rounded hills, declining slopes, green lawns, and shady



groves, through which meander laughing brooks, with here and there flowing fountains of purest water. And through the midst of this park of natural scenery flow majestically and peacefully the waters of Rock river. Numerous islands set with green grass and fringed with small forest trees adorn the river in its course through the township, presenting additional attractions to the eyes of the admirers of the beautiful in nature. The river enters the township on the north near the middle of the boundary line, flowing southeast to within a quarter of a mile of the east line; then bearing to the southwest it passes the city of Dixon and emerges from the township half a mile north of the southwest corner; thus traversing the length and breadth of the township.

The town of Dixon is well supplied with the purest of water, furnished by fountains which burst from the hills and bluffs, and send their rivulets through the farms to quench the thirst of the herds that graze upon the rich pastures.

The drainage of the township is good, as will be readily seen by reference to the geography of the territory which it embraces. The land is generally rolling, and bluff along the river. It is also well supplied with timber of valuable varieties and best quality. Most of the great trees of the primeval forest, however, have fallen before the woodman's axe. The tall oaks, poplars, black walnuts, and hickory have given place to timber of smaller growth. Though the grand forest of half a century is gone, there are yet groves and forests of the finest timber; oak of different varieties abound, with here and there beautiful groves of thrifty young hickory.

The soil is fertile and adapted to most varieties of products—spring and winter wheat, oats, corn, etc. Its pasturage and water supply adapts it to stock-growing; the growth of clover and blue-grass not being surpassed in any part of the country. The citizens who give attention to this department obtain the most favorable results, paying a larger per cent than grain-growing in other parts of the state.

The supply of building stone is unequalled by any other township in the county, and unsurpassed in quality. Quarries are opened along both sides of the river, furnishing a yellow sand and limestone of durable quality, and the blue limestone of the finest building material. The supply seems inexhaustible for generations to come; and the same may be said of the supply of lime-producing rock, from which is manufactured the finest quality of lime. Extensive quarries are being worked, and large quantities of lime are being produced. A superior quality is manufactured at the quarry above the water-power, within the city of Dixon.

## THE EARLY SETTLEMENT OF DIXON'S FERRY.

The first settlers of Dixon township have received some notice in connection with the early settlement of Dixon's Ferry. Outside of the city of Dixon we find the first settlements embraced in the present township of Dixon began in the fall or winter of 1834. Dr. Forest, from Kentucky, settled on what is now known as the Woodford farm, situated on the east side of the river above Dixon. Geo. A. Martin settled on the place afterward known as the Trueman farm. Mr. Bennett settled near Grand Detour, at the place where the ferry was subsequently built. Here he built a shanty and covered it with bark. The following year he removed east. About the same time Geo. A. Brown settled on a farm next below Mr. Bennett. These four families were here when Mr. Joseph Crawford came in the spring of 1835, and settled south of Grand Detour. These all settled on unimproved land, and in the summer of 1835 commenced opening up farms.

These were followed by Mr. McClure, Mr. Rue, on the Baily farm; Mr. Carpenter, on the Hetler farm; and in the spring of 1837 James M. Santee, Solomon Shellhammer, Elijah Bowman, Mr. Carlton, and a Mr. Richards. In 1838 Nathan Hetler settled on the place first occupied by Mr. Carpenter.

In 1838 "Gov." Alexander Charters having come from Ireland, settled on the "Hazelwood" farm, two miles north of Dixon, and improved a fine farm. As early as 1840 his home was far-famed as a hospitable and pleasant retreat for visitors to this part of the country, and was the place specially mentioned by William C. Bryant, the poet, after his visit to Rock River in 1841. In 1843 Alfred K. and J. C. Buckalu, from Pennsylvania, settled in the same neighborhood. They are both deceased; Joseph C. died September 11, 1852, and Alfred died March 24, 1864.

The first brick manufactured in the county is said to have been used in the construction of "Gov." Alex. Charters' residence on the Hazelwood farm, referred to above, and the building to be the first frame house in Lee county.

The early travel through the northern part of the state crossed Dixon township. The first wagon team that passed from Peoria to Galena, through the central Rock river country, by O. W. Kellogg, in the early summer of 1827, passed through the township, crossing Rock river at the head of the island opposite "Gov." Charters' home; on which line was established what was known as Kellogg's Trail. Many fortune-seekers on their way to the northern mines passed over this route. The second route, which was first traveled by John Boles, left the pioneer trail of O. W. Kellogg some miles

below the present site of Dixon, and crossed the river a little above the present crossing of the Illinois railroad bridge at that city, leaving the former trail to the right. This became the recognized route between the settlements on the Illinois river and mining districts of northern Illinois. In 1829 another route was established from Ogee's Ferry on the river to Buffalo Grove, and became the regular stage route. Traces of this route are yet seen from Dixon, through the opening in the forest on the northwestern hills from the city, and being covered with green grass, it is in striking contrast with what it was fifty years ago when beaten down by constant travel, or cut into furrows by the heavy wheels of the prairie schooners and stage coaches; but now, like a beautiful narrow lawn, it stretches away through the shade of the heavy forest. But as reference is made to the early improvements of the territory of Dixon township in connection with the early days of Lee county we refer the reader to that part of our work.

Dixon township was the great theater ground of many of the incidents of the pioneer days of this locality when it was embraced in Ogle county. It was long the home of the red-man, its groves and prairies his hunting-grounds, and the Rock river his fishery; the many springs of pure water gave him drink; here are buried his dead, his forefathers who once joined in the chase and whose war-whoop mingled with the shouts of the braves, sleep beneath the shades of Rock river forests. And it is not strange that the "last of the Winnebagoes in Dixon" was the closing history of the Indian tribes in northern Illinois.

There are many interesting incidents of the early days of Dixon township, related by the old citizens, of adventures with the savages and wild beasts. The most troublesome of the latter was the large gray wolf which came down the river forests to commit depredations, and on the first suspicion that he was hunted for would retreat back to his favorite haunts in the shades of Wisconsin.

## TOWN OFFICERS FOR DIXON TOWNSHIP.

DATE.	SUPERVISOR.	CLERK	ASSESSOR.	COLLECTOR
1850	J. T. Little.	J. B. Gregory.	E. B. Stiles.	E. W. Hine.
1851	J. V. Eustace.	N. F. Porter.	E. W. Hine.	Jas. Hatch.
1852	Same.	J. B. Gregory.	Jos. Crawford.	Ozias Wheeler.
1853	J. B. Brooks.	Same.	A. Brown.	S. Y. Cleaver.
1854	Jos. Crawford.	T. W. Eustace.	J. M. Johnson.	Ozias Wheeler.
1855	Cyrus Aldridge.	Same.	A. Brown.	Same.
1856	J. B. Nash.	Same.	Jos. Crawford.	J. W. Clute.
1857	Same.	Same.	A. N. Barnes.	John Brown.
1858	Same.	Same.	Same.	Same.
1859	Same.	Same.	J. H. Cropsey.	H. S. Mead.
1860	A. U. Hazen.	J. C. Ayres.	Geo. L. Herrick.	Same.

DATE.	SUPERVISOR.	CLERK.	ASSESSOR.	COLLECTOR
1861	J. G. Fleck.	J. C. Ayres.	J. H. Burton.	H. S. Mead.
1862	Jas. Reardon.	Same.	A. N. Barnes.	A. McPherran.
1863	W. H. Van Epps.	Same.	V. Santee.	W. V. Mason.
1864	J. B. Crawford.	Same.	Samuel Fargo.	N. S. Davis.
1865	L. A. Divine.	Same.	V. Santee.	H. S. Mead.
1866	Same.	Same.	O. Wheeler.	J. B. Crawford.
1867	David Welty.	Same.	Same.	Same.
1868	Same.	Same.	J. B. Crawford.	Jas. H. Crawford.
1869	Same.	Same.	O. Wheeler.	Palmer Atkins.
"	J. Crawford.			
1870	Lorenzo Wood.	Same.	J. Uhl.	M. M. Evens.
"	J. Courtright.			
1871	L. Wood.	J. H. Downs.	O. Wheeler.	F. H. Babbitt.
"	P. Cheney.			
1872	L. Wood.	F. H. Babbitt.	D. B. McKenney.	W. H. Laing.
"	P. Cheney.			
1873	L. Wood.	Same.	Same.	C. W. Benjamin.
"	P. Cheney.			
1874	L. Wood.	Same.	Same.	Jas. Tracy.
"	P. Cheney.			
1875	L. Wood.	Same.	Same.	H. K. Strong.
"	P. Cheney.			
1876	L. Wood.	Same.	Same.	O. A. Webb.
"	M. Burket.			
1877	L. Wood.	Same.	Same.	M. Maloney.
"	A. Barlow.			
1878	L. Wood.	Same.	Same.	T. L. Wood.
"	H. Hetler.			
1879	L. Wood.	Palmer Atkins.	Same.	M. Rock.
"	H. Hetler.			
1880	L. Wood.	Same.	Same.	J. Reuland.
"	H. Hetler.			
1881	L. Wood.	Same.	Same.	W. N. Vann.
"	H. Hetler.			

John Morse was appointed first assessor for the county March 7, 1840.

#### OLD SETTLERS RECORD OF DIXON AND VICINITY.

Alexander, P. M., born in New York, 1820; arrived 1838; living in Dixon.

Ayres, O. F., born in New York, 1809; arrived 1839; living in Dixon.

Ayres, D. B., born in New York, 1834; arrived 1839; living in Dixon.

Armstrong, Jacob, born in New York, 1815; arrived 1840; now at Fort Collins, Colo.

Atkinson, Wesley, born in Indiana, 1830; arrived 1838; settled in Palmyra; left about 1855.

Brookner, Christopher, born in Germany, 1817; arrived 1837; died October 9, 1879.

Brookner, Daniel, born in Germany, 1803; arrived 1837; died July 23, 1854.

Barber, Nathanael, born in New York; arrived 1837.

Bowman, S. M., born in Pennsylvania; arrived 1837; now in Kansas City, Missouri.

Bowman, Elijah, born in Pennsylvania; arrived 1840; cousin of S. M.; living in Boone county.

Bunner, Thomas S., born in New York; arrived 1837; died in Indiana.

Bayley, Carlton, born in New York, 1819; arrived 1839; died about 1873.



- Bayley, Richard, born in New York; arrived 1838; died in New York city about 1850.  
Burroughs, Wm. P., born in New York; arrived 1835; moved to Wisconsin.  
Burroughs, Henry, born in New York; arrived 1840; moved to California; dead.  
Barr, James B., arrived 1836; dead.  
Bogardas, Wells, born in New York; arrived 1836; dead.  
Benjamin, Horace, born in New York, 1812; arrived 1838; died October 28, 1850.  
Benjamin, James, born in New York, 1817; arrived 1838; living in Dixon.  
Beardsley, Daniel, born in New York; arrived 1835; died in Palmyra, 1839.  
Bethea, William W., born in Tennessee, 1812; arrived 1835; living in Dixon.  
Brown, Abram, born in Canada, 1816; arrived 1837; living in south Dixon.  
Brown, David, born in Connecticut, 1806; arrived 1836; died in 1849.  
Brown, John, born in Vermont, 1808; arrived 1836; died August 1878.  
Brown, Nathan, born in Vermont; arrived 1836; living in Connecticut.  
Brown, Thomas W., born in Connecticut; arrived 1840; living in Franklin Grove.  
Brown, B. B., arrived 1835.  
Bush, William T., born in Kentucky; arrived 1835; started a ferry at the J. T. Lawrence place; died in 1838.  
Bush, E. B., born in Kentucky; arrived 1835; went to Iowa in 1843.  
Bennett, Orwin, born in New England; arrived 1834.  
Blair, Martin, born in Kentucky, 1829; arrived 1839; living in Palmyra.  
Boardman, I. S., born in New York, 1816; arrived 1837; living in Palmyra.  
Boardman, T. D., born in New York, 1812; arrived 1839; living in Palmyra.  
Birdsall, David H., born in New York; arrived 1837; died December 1868.  
Brower, Martin W., born in Germany, 1816; arrived 1839; living in Palmyra.  
Brower, Lewis, born in Germany; arrived 1839; died in Nelson, 1872.  
Baggs, John, born in Ohio, 1823; arrived 1836; living in Iowa.  
Becker, Charles A., born in Prussia, 1810; arrived 1839; died February 7, 1859.  
Beach, William W., born in New York, 1805; arrived 1840; died in Geneseo.  
Butler, Timothy A., born in New York, 1817; arrived 1838; living in Palmyra.  
Brierton, Joseph, born in Pennsylvania, 1797; arrived 1837; living east of Dixon.  
Brandon, Edward, born in Pennsylvania, 1795; arrived 1837; died October, 1839.  
Brandon, Benjamin, born in Pennsylvania, 1815; arrived 1837; living near Nachusa.  
Brandon, John, born in Pennsylvania, 1801; arrived 1837; died about 1839.  
Beede, Noah, born in New Hampshire, 1802; arrived 1836; died in Palmyra, 1854.  
Beede, Allen A., born in New Hampshire, 1835; arrived 1836; living in Palmyra.  
Bishop, Caldwell, born in New York, 1818; arrived 1837; living in Dixon.  
Bradshaw, W. T., born in New York; arrived 1838.  
Baker, Tutt, born in Kentucky; arrived 1835; started a ferry at Dr. Everett's farm.  
Brookie, John, born in Kentucky; arrived 1836; living in St. Louis.  
Carr, John, born in Scotland; arrived 1837; went to Hong Kong, China.  
Cutshaw, John, born in Ohio; arrived 1835.  
Cutshaw, Joshua, born in Ohio; arrived 1835.  
Crawford, Joseph, born in Pennsylvania, 1811; arrived 1835; living in Dixon.  
Crowell, Moses T., born in New Hampshire, 1811; arrived 1838; went to California.  
Crowell, Solon, born in New Hampshire; arrived 1838; living in Ogle county.  
Colwell, J. C., born in Ireland; arrived 1840; dead.  
Crosby, Edward, born in New York; arrived 1840; died at Fulton.  
Crosby, Elisha, born in New York; arrived 1840.  
Coe, Frederick W., born in New York; arrived 1836; dead.  
Coe, Henry, born in New York, 1814; arrived 1837; died July 5, 1858.  
Chamberlin, Cyrus, born in New York, 1814; arrived 1835; living in Grand Detour.  
Chapman, Charles, born in New York; arrived 1836; dead.  
Chapman, George, born in New York; arrived 1836.

- Chase, George W., born in Maine; arrived 1837; dead.
- Chase, Charles T., born in Maine; arrived 1839; died August 28, 1851.
- Charters, Alexander, born in Ireland, 1817; arrived 1838; died at Hazelwood farm September 18, 1878.
- Charters, Samuel, born in Ireland, 1800; arrived 1837; nephew of Alexander.
- Carley, James, born in New York; arrived 1839; died in Geneseo.
- Campbell, Alexander, born in England, 1820; arrived 1839; living in California.
- Cantrall, Samuel, born in 1792; arrived 1836; moved to Sangamon county.
- Cantrall, David; arrived 1836; living in Iowa; moved in 1853.
- Crafton, George, born in Ireland; arrived 1837; dead.
- Courtright, Joseph, born in Pennsylvania; arrived 1837; died September 1840.
- Courtright, Elisha, born in Pennsylvania, 1795; arrived 1840; died November 1, 1871.
- Courtright, Abraham, born in Pennsylvania, 1818; arrived 1840; living in Nebraska.
- Courtright, John, born in Pennsylvania, 1820; arrived 1840; living two miles east of Dixon.
- Courtright, Christopher, born in Pennsylvania, 1822; arrived 1840; living in Nebraska.
- Courtright, Jacob B., born in Pennsylvania, 1826; arrived 1840; living in Nebraska.
- Courtright, G. W., born in Pennsylvania, 1830; arrived 1840; died in the spring of 1872.
- Courtright, Erastus G., born in Pennsylvania, 1832; arrived 1840; living in Dixon.
- Cropsey, J. M., born in New York, 1818; arrived 1839; living in Dixon.
- Cambell, James, born in Pennsylvania, 1814; arrived 1838; dead.
- Covell, E. W., arrived 1836.
- Cogswell, Abner, born in New York, 1812; arrived 1840; living in Nelson township.
- Cleaver, Joseph, born in Pennsylvania, 1821; arrived 1838; died July 23, 1854.
- Clute, John W., born in New York, 1820; arrived 1840; living in Dixon.
- Crary, Mason, born in Pennsylvania; arrived 1839; living in Iowa.
- Crary, Beach, born in Pennsylvania; arrived 1839; living at Elkhorn Grove.
- Caldwell, John, born in Ireland; arrived 1839; died about 1844.
- Dixon, John, born in New York, 1784; arrived 1830; died July 6, 1876.
- Dixon, James P., born in New York, 1811; arrived 1830; died April 5, 1853.
- Dixon, John W., born in New York, 1817; arrived 1830; died March 20, 1847.
- Dixon, Elijah, born in New York, 1819; arrived 1830; died March 15, 1843.
- Davy, James, born in England, 1840; died in Ogle county.
- Dutcher, Frederick R., born in Connecticut, 1805; arrived 1838; living in Amboy.
- Dutcher, Wells, born in Connecticut; arrived 1838.
- Dills, George, born in Pennsylvania; arrived 1838; dead.
- Dornan, Mark, born in Ireland, 1815; arrived 1839; living in Dixon.
- Dornan, James, born in Ireland, 1820; arrived 1839; died about 1874.
- Depuy, Harmon, born in Pennsylvania, 1797; arrived 1839; died September 15, 1856.
- Depuy, Jacob, born in Pennsylvania, 1829; arrived 1839; living in Dixon.
- Depuy, William, born in Pennsylvania, 1834; arrived 1839; living in Dixon.
- Dingman, John, born in Canada; arrived 1840.
- Dement, John, born in Tennessee, 1805; arrived 1840; moved family here in 1845; living in Dixon.
- Dement, Charles, born in Illinois, 1818; arrived 1840; died in December 1875.
- Dickerman, Alanson, arrived 1836.
- Deyo, Garrett F., born in Vermont, 1785; arrived 1836; died in 1848.
- Dudley, Jeremiah, born in New York, 1818; arrived 1840; died in 1848.
- Davis, Joseph, born in New York, 1787; arrived 1840; died November 26, 1851.
- Davis, J. W., born in Canada, 1821; arrived 1840; died May 4, 1874.
- Davis, George W., born in Canada, 1825; arrived 1840; died December 12, 1855.
- Davis, Cyrus A., born in New Hampshire, 1825; arrived 1839; settled in Amboy; came to Dixon in 1858.

- Daley, John, arrived 1819; living in Oregon.
- Everett, Dr. Oliver, born in Massachusetts, 1811; arrived 1836; living in Dixon.
- Fuller, Stephen, born 1797; arrived 1836; living three miles east of Dixon.
- Fellows, Stephen, born in New Hampshire, 1786; arrived 1834; died February 8, 1840.
- Fellows, Michael, born in New Hampshire, 1810; arrived 1834; living in Wisconsin.
- Fellows, Simon, born in New Hampshire, 1815; arrived 1834; living in Whiteside county.
- Fellows, Samuel, born in New Hampshire, 1818; arrived 1834; died June 1863.
- Fellows, William, born in New Hampshire, 1820; arrived 1834; living in Wisconsin.
- Fellows, Alfred, born in New Hampshire, 1822; arrived 1834; living in Iowa.
- Fellows, George, born in New Hampshire, 1826; arrived 1834; living in California.
- Fellows, Albion, born in New Hampshire, 1827; arrived 1834; died in 1865.
- Fellows, Stephen, born in New Hampshire, 1830; arrived 1834; living in Iowa.
- Fry, John, born in Pennsylvania, 1813; arrived 1838; living near Dixon.
- Fender, Absalom, born in North Carolina; arrived 1835; died in 1848.
- Fender, Martin, born in North Carolina; arrived 1835; died about 1860.
- Fender, Solomon, born in North Carolina, 1811; arrived 1835; died in Palmyra, November 1873.
- Fender, Jesse, born in Indiana, 1821; arrived 1835; living in Palmyra.
- Fender, John, born in Indiana, 1825; arrived 1835; living in Missouri.
- Fender, Hiram, born in Indiana, 1827; arrived 1835; died at Elkhorn Grove, August 21, 1879.
- Fender, James, born in Indiana, 1832; arrived 1835; died in January 1880.
- Foot, George, born in New York, 1828; arrived 1839; died 1879.
- Forrest, Dr., born in Kentucky; arrived 1834; returned to Kentucky.
- Graham, Capt. Hugh, born in Ireland, 1774; arrived 1838; died in New York city about 1853.
- Graham, William W., born in New York, 1817; arrived 1837; died in Montana territory, March 1878.
- Gillbraith, Smith, born in New York, 1810; arrived 1835; died February 5, 1843.
- Garrison, Mathias F., born in Pennsylvania, 1820; arrived 1840; living in Nebraska; moved in 1878.
- Goble, James, born in Pennsylvania, 1811; arrived 1837; living in Dixon.
- Gray, A. F., born in Vermont, 1819; arrived 1839; died in Missouri, 1876.
- Gaston, Chaney, born in New York, 1782; arrived 1835; died in Palmyra, March 7, 1876.
- Gaston, Rev. A., born in New York, 1809; arrived 1835; died in Galesburg, December 21, 1849.
- Gaston, Chaney T., born in New York, 1812; arrived 1835; died at Elgin, June 11, 1854.
- Gaston, Levi, born in New York, 1814; arrived 1835; living in Palmyra.
- Gaston, Charles E., born in New York, 1817; arrived 1835; died in California, July 14, 1852.
- Gaston, Henry, born in New York, 1822; arrived 1835; died at Galesburg, September 23, 1849.
- Gregory, J. B., born in Ohio, 1810; arrived 1838; died 1854.
- Hubbard, Charles F., born in New York, 1817; arrived 1837; living three miles west of Dixon.
- Hubbard, Thomas S., born in New York; arrived 1837; brother of Charles; living in Kansas.
- Hubbard, Oliver, born in New Hampshire; arrived 1835; father of M. D. M. Hubbard; died September 16, 1840.
- Hine, E. W., born in New York, 1816; arrived 1836; died May 1874.

- Hamilton, J. W., born in New York; arrived 1836.
- Huff, Lemuel, born in Canada; arrived 1835; went to California.
- Hetler, Nathan, born in Pennsylvania, 1819; arrived 1837; died May 21, 1877.
- Hetler, Hiram, born in Pennsylvania, 1837; arrived 1837; living near Dixon.
- Hetler, Jesse, born in Pennsylvania; arrived 1837; living near Dixon.
- Hetler, Jeremiah, born in Pennsylvania; arrived 1837; living near Dixon.
- Hetler, John, born in Pennsylvania; arrived 1837; living near Dixon.
- Hetler, John, born in Germany, 1809; arrived 1840; living in Dixon.
- Heaton, W. W., born in New York, 1814; arrived 1840; died December 1877.
- Heaton, James, born in New York; arrived 1840; living near Dixon.
- Herrick, Samuel, born in New York, 1807; arrived 1840; died April 6, 1864.
- Herrick, O. F., born in Canada, 1836; arrived 1840; living in Bureau county.
- Holly, George, born in New York; arrived 1838; died 1843.
- Holly, Augustus, born in New York; arrived 1838.
- Holly, Jesse, born in Canada; arrived 1835; dead.
- Holly, David A., born in Canada, 1806; arrived 1835; dead.
- Holly, James N., born in Canada, 1808; arrived 1835; living in Palmyra.
- Hamill, Patrick, born in Ireland, 1818; arrived 1838; died 1862.
- Hinton, Pleasant, born in Kentucky; arrived 1840; died July 1844.
- Hankerson, James, born in New York; arrived 1840; died in California.
- Hollbrook, L. G., arrived 1840.
- Hollbrook, Charles, arrived 1840; living in Polo.
- Hatch, Charles, born in New Hampshire, 1814; arrived 1840; living in Dixon.
- Hatch, James, born in New Hampshire, 1816; arrived 1840; living in Dixon. [Here as early as 1836.]
- Howard, S. G. P., arrived 1839; moved to Chicago.
- Herrick, George L., born in Vermont, 1815; arrived 1837; came to Grand Detour 1837, Dixon 1851.
- Hutton, Fletcher, arrived 1838; died in Palmyra, May 27, 1879.
- Hutton, Neamiah, born in Pennsylvania, 1815; arrived 1838; living at State Center Illinois.
- Hutton, William, born in Pennsylvania, 1790; arrived 1838; died in Sterling.
- Johnson, Samuel, arrived 1836; died at Fulton, Illinois.
- Johnson, George M., born in Michigan; arrived 1839; died January 19, 1878.
- Johnson, Avery, born in Michigan, arrived 1839; living in Dixon.
- Johnson, Henry, born in Michigan; arrived 1839; dead.
- Johnson, Charles, born in Michigan; arrived 1839; dead.
- Johnson, William Y., born in Massachusetts, 1810; arrived 1838; died in Iowa, August 28, 1873.
- Johnson, J. M., born in Massachusetts, 1814; arrived 1838; living in Palmyra.
- Johnson, Ebenezer H., born in New York, 1810; arrived 1838; living in Palmyra.
- Jennis, Albert, born in New Hampshire, 1817; arrived 1836; moved to Iowa.
- Jones, William, born in New York, 1817; arrived 1835; died about 1845.
- Jnyers, John, born in Pennsylvania; arrived 1836.
- Kerr, M. P.; arrived 1836; moved to Galena, Illinois.
- Kerr, James N., born in Pennsylvania, 1807; arrived 1838; dead.
- Kennedy, William, born in New York, 1818; arrived 1839; died 1874.
- Kirkpatrick, —; arrived 1835.
- Loveland, Otis, born in New York, 1787; arrived 1837; died September 29, 1839.
- Loveland, Richard B., born in New York, 1819; arrived 1837; died August 29, 1851.
- Loveland, H. G., born in New York; arrived 1839; living in California.
- Lovejoy, James, arrived 1839; dead.
- Little, J. T., born in Maine, 1817; arrived 1839; now in Washington.



- Lummison, Joseph, born in Pennsylvania, 1796; arrived 1838; dead.  
 Lummison, John, born in Pennsylvania; arrived 1838; son of Joseph.  
 Lord, John, born in New Hampshire, 1804; arrived 1838; died January 1873.  
 Lord, John L., born in New Hampshire, 1829; arrived 1839; living in Palmyra.  
 Lord, Augustus, born in New Hampshire; arrived 1838; dead.  
 Law, David, born in New York, 1772; arrived 1839; died October 3, 1845.  
 Law, David H., born in New York, 1831; arrived 1839; living in Sterling.  
 Law, William, born in New York, 1834; arrived 1839; died December 1842.  
 Lawrence, J. Tharp, born in Island Jamaica; arrived 1839; died in New York city 1847.  
 Lawrence, J. Tharp, jr., born in Island Jamaica, 1819; arrived 1839; living in Palmyra.  
 Lawrence, Rickets, born in Island Jamaica; arrived 1839; living in New York city.  
 Lane, Charles A., arrived 1840; returned to Pennsylvania.  
 Linghan, J. G., born in England, 1810; arrived 1839; living in New Orleans.  
 McKenney, Mathew, born in Canada; arrived 1836; died in 1847.  
 McKenney, Peter, born in New York, 1798; arrived 1836; died March 27, 1870.  
 McKenney, Daniel B., born in New York, 1816; arrived 1836; living in Dixon.  
 McKenney, V. R., born in Canada 1832; arrived 1846; living in South Dixon.  
 McKenney, Frederick, born in New York, 1806; arrived 1837; living in Dixon.  
 McKenney, James, born in New York, 1804; arrived 1837; died April 8, 1865.  
 McKenney, Henry B., born in New York, 1810; arrived 1840; died February 1, 1856.  
 Morehouse, Nathan, born in New York, 1800; arrived 1835; died June 1878.  
 Morehouse, T. C., born in New York, 1828; arrived 1835; living in Dixon.  
 Mudd, —, arrived 1836.  
 Morrill, N. G. H., born in New Hampshire, 1808; arrived 1838; living in Dixon.  
 Morrill, Jacob, born in New Hampshire, 1818; arrived 1838; living in New Hampshire.  
 McCleary, A., arrived 1840; dead.  
 McCabe, Thomas, born in Ohio; arrived 1837; living in California.  
 McCabe, Moses, born in Ohio; arrived 1838.  
 Moon, Abner D., arrived 1837; died 1877.  
 Murphy, Jeremiah, born in Maine; arrived 1840; living in New York.  
 Murphy, A. T., born in Kentucky, 1812; arrived 1840; died June 17, 1861.  
 McClure, Samuel, born in Ireland; arrived 1834; living in Stark county, Illinois.  
 McClure, Thomas, born in Ireland, 1798; arrived 1840; died in Iowa.  
 Millard, William, born in Pennsylvania; arrived 1840; living in Boone county.  
 March, Thomas, born in New York; arrived 1839; died in Mexico, 1850.  
 Mead, Heman, born in New York, 1809; arrived 1839; moved to California, 1874.  
 Morse, John; arrived 1837; went to California.  
 Murray, Robert; arrived 1840; dead.  
 Murray, Joseph; arrived 1840.  
 Montieth, John; arrived 1836.  
 Morgan, Isaac, born in Ohio, 1798; arrived 1834; dead.  
 Morgan, Joshua, born in Ohio; arrived 1839; dead.  
 Morgan, John, born in Ohio, 1806; arrived 1834; living in Iowa.  
 Morgan Harvey, born in Ohio, 1810; arrived 1834; died August 16, 1880.  
 Miller, Henry, born in Germany; arrived 1837; died 1878.  
 Miller, John I., born in Germany, 1806; arrived 1842.  
 Martin, George A., born in Kentucky; arrived 1834; returned to Kentucky.  
 Martin, William, born in New Hampshire; arrived 1836; died 1844.  
 Martin, Charles A., born in New Hampshire, 1830; arrived 1836; living in Palmyra.  
 Martin, James F., born in New Hampshire, 1804; arrived 1839; settled in Walnut Grove, 1834. Living in Palmyra.  
 Martin, Jacob, born in New Hampshire, 1808; arrived 1836; living in Palmyra.

Martin, Tyler, born in New Hampshire, 1820; arrived 1836; living in Palmyra.  
 Mason, William V., born in New York; arrived 1839; moved to Iowa.  
 Myers, William, born in Pennsylvania, 1813; arrived 1836; living in Palmyra.  
 McGraw, Edward, born in Ireland, 1813; arrived 1840.  
 Moore, John, born in England, 1790; arrived 1847; died in 1854.  
 Moore, John H., born in England, 1835; arrived 1847; living in Dixon.  
 Moore, Hugh, born in New Hampshire; arrived 1836; dead.  
 Moore, Rufus, born in New Hampshire; arrived 1836; dead.  
 Moore, James, born in New Hampshire; arrived 1835; dead.  
 Moores, Josiah, born in New York; arrived 1840; dead.  
 Moores, John, born in New York; arrived 1840; living in Iowa.  
 Moores, James, born in New York; arrived 1840; living in Iowa.  
 Moores, Timothy, born in New York; arrived 1840; living in Dakota.  
 Moores, Josiah, born in New York; arrived 1840; living in California.  
 McComsey, I. D., born in 1813; arrived 1839; died March 16, 1848.  
 Messer, Gilbert, born in New Hampshire, 1812; arrived 1844; living in South Dixon.  
 McNeal, Thomas, born in Ireland, 1805; arrived 1840; dead.  
 Moyer, John, born in Pennsylvania, 1797; arrived 1838; living in Dixon township.  
 Mowrey, Philip, born in Pennsylvania, 1810; arrived 1840; died in Iowa, August 1878.  
 Nehemiah, John, born in Germany, 1806; arrived 1840; moved to Stephenson county, Illinois; dead.  
 Noble, Silas, born in Massachusetts, 1808; arrived 1841; dead.  
 Newman, John, born in Kentucky; arrived 1839; dead.  
 Newman, Manly, born in Kentucky; arrived 1839; dead.  
 Newman, Richard, born in Kentucky; arrived 1839; living in Dixon.  
 Newman, Jesse, born in Kentucky; arrived 1839; dead.  
 Nash, J. B., born in New York; arrived 1838; died near Pike's Peak, Colorado, 1864.  
 O'Neal, John, born in Ireland, 1800; arrived 1837; died 1873.  
 O'Brien, Daniel, born in Ireland, 1819; arrived 1838.  
 Obrist, Abram, arrived 1837; died in Palmyra 1850.  
 Obrist, Daniel, arrived 1836; drowned in Elkhorn creek.  
 O'Kane, John, arrived 1837; dead.  
 Oliver, J. C., born in Pennsylvania, 1804; arrived 1837; living in Sterling.  
 Page, John H., born in New Hampshire, 1807; arrived 1834; died in Iowa.  
 Page, Thomas, born in England; arrived 1836; dead.  
 Page, Henry, born in Germany, 1820; arrived 1839; dead.  
 Parks, Hiram, born in New York, 1809; arrived 1836; living in Palmyra.  
 Parker, Solomon, born in Pennsylvania; arrived 1840; dead.  
 Patterson, David, born in New York; arrived 1838; dead.  
 Peacock, Joseph, born in Ohio, 1796; arrived 1837; died January 12, 1871.  
 Peacock, William, born in Ohio, 1817; arrived 1837; living near Dixon.  
 Peacock, Charles, born in Ohio, 1823; arrived in 1837; living in Polo.  
 Plummer, Thomas, born in Ohio; arrived in 1837; moved to Iowa.  
 Plummer, John, born in Ohio; arrived 1837.  
 Plummer, Caleb, born in Ohio, 1806; arrived 1837; moved to Iowa.  
 Porter, Aaron L., born in New York, 1808; arrived 1828; dead.  
 Porter, James, born in New York, 1814; arrived 1840; died at Harmon, July 15, 1880.  
 Porter, Jerome, born in New York; arrived 1840; living in California.  
 Porter, N. F., born in New York, 1820; arrived 1840.  
 Powers, Joseph, born in Massachusetts, 1786; arrived 1838; dead.  
 Powers, Abijah, born in Massachusetts, 1814; arrived in 1838; living in Palmyra.  
 Power, James, born in Kentucky, 1791; arrived 1835; died in Missouri.  
 Power, Thomas, born in Kentucky, 1819; arrived 1835; living in Missouri.

- Pratt, Julius, born in Pennsylvania; arrived 1835; died in Sterling.
- Pratt, Marshall, born in Pennsylvania; arrived 1838.
- Preston, Horace, born in New Hampshire, 1819; arrived 1838; living in Dixon.
- Purinton, George, born in Maine; arrived 1839; living in Freeport.
- Robinson, John K., born in Ohio, 1809; arrived May 1832; living in Mendota.
- Rathbone, Ward, born in England; arrived 1838.
- Richards, John, born in England, 1793; arrived 1836; died June 1, 1854.
- Richards, James, born in Canada, 1825; arrived 1836; living in Dixon.
- Richards, William, arrived 1836; living in Moline.
- Richardson, Martin, born in Massachusetts, 1800; arrived 1835; living in Sterling.
- Richardson, Orrin, born in Kentucky; arrived 1835.
- Rue, Jacob, arrived 1836.
- Rosebrook Lyman, born in New Hampshire, 1817; arrived 1836; went to Colorado.
- Rogers, Walter, born in 1820; arrived 1839; living in Palmyra.
- Steevens, Dewit C., arrived 1838; went to California.
- Shelhamer Solomon, born in Pennsylvania, 1798; arrived 1837; died April 1879.
- Scheel, Orrin, arrived 1838; dead.
- Seward, William, born in Pennsylvania; arrived 1838; dead.
- Southwick, Edward, born in New York, 1812; arrived 1840; died in Amboy.
- Sargent, Robert, arrived 1839.
- Santee, James M., born in Pennsylvania, 1802; arrived 1838; died December 1873.
- Santee, Samuel, born in Pennsylvania; arrived 1838; died in Pennsylvania.
- Smith, Barclay, born in Pennsylvania, 1808; arrived 1837; died April 20, 1845.
- Smith, Alanson, born in New York, 1817; arrived 1839; living in Mendota.
- Stiles, Elias B., born in Pennsylvania, 1820; arrived 1840; living in Dixon.
- Stiles, Samuel, born in Pennsylvania; arrived 1844; living in Dallas, Oregon.
- Stewart, Benjamin H., born in New York, 1809; arrived 1834; died in Missouri.
- Sterling, James, born in Pennsylvania, 1805; arrived 1838; brought family here in 1847. Died November 1860.
- Seavey, Joshua, born in New Hampshire, 1777; arrived 1837.
- Seavey, Jesse, born in New Hampshire, 1811; arrived 1837; dead.
- Seavey, Winthrop, born in New Hampshire, 1802; arrived 1837; died about 1865.
- Sartorius, Henry G., born in Germany, 1815; arrived 1838; dead.
- Sartorius, Gustavus, born in Germany, 1822; arrived 1838; living in Palmyra.
- Scallion, Thomas, born in Ireland; arrived 1839; dead.
- Scallion, Moses, born in Ireland, 1821; arrived 1839.
- Sweeney, Truxton, arrived 1840.
- Simonson, A. H., arrived 1837; dead.
- Thompson, Horace, born in New York; arrived 1836; died about 1845.
- Thompson, John, born in New York; arrived 1837; living at Elkhorn Grove.
- Thompson, James, born in New York; arrived 1837; dead.
- Thompson, William, born in New York; arrived 1837; dead.
- Tallmadge, Caleb, born in Massachusetts, 1798; arrived 1837; died February 19, 1858.
- Truett, Henry B., arrived 1837.
- Thummel, Anthony, born in Germany, 1795; arrived 1836; died June 1876.
- Thomas, Enoch, born in Ohio; arrived 1835.
- Thomas, Noah, born in Ohio, 1813; arrived 1835; dead.
- Van Arnam, John, born in Canada; arrived 1839; dead.
- Van Arnam, James, born in Canada, 1827; arrived 1839; living in Marion township.
- Wetzlar, Gustavus, born in Germany; arrived 1838; went to California.
- Welty, David, born in New York, 1811; arrived 1838; living in Dixon.
- Wakalee, Aaron, arrived 1838; dead.
- Williams, Cyrus, born in Massachusetts, 1797; arrived 1837; died August 2, 1866.

Webb, Henry, born in New York, 1830; arrived 1838; dead.

Wilkinson, William, born in New York; arrived 1835; dead; son of Judge Wilkinson, one of the proprietors of the town.

Woodyat, Richard, born in England, 1815; arrived 1840; father of W. H. Woodyat; died April 1, 1859.

Wheeler, Ozias, born in Vermont, 1812; arrived 1840; dead.

White, David, born in Scotland, 1798; arrived 1840; dead.

Warner, Moses, born in Massachusetts; arrived 1838.

Warner, Henry, born in Massachusetts; arrived 1838; living in Sterling.

Whitmore, S. H., born in New York, 1813; arrived 1836; died May 5, 1873, from injuries received at bridge accident.

Young, John, born in New York; arrived 1839; living in New York city.

#### DIXON VOLUNTEERS.

The town of Dixon is credited with about 550 volunteers. Many of these, however, came from adjacent towns, but are placed on the roll of honor for Dixon. This is especially true of Palmyra volunteers.

Of the number of soldiers reported from Dixon, there were nineteen commissioned officers, and forty-two non-commissioned. There were fifty-two promotions, a large number of which were of privates to commissioned and non-commissioned offices because of meritorious service. About twenty-one are reported as having been killed in battle, or having died from wounds received in battle. Thirty-five to forty died from sickness in hospitals or at home on sick furlough. Others were discharged because of disease contracted while in the service, and have since died, and whose deaths do not appear on the roll of deceased soldiers. Many, at the expiration of their term of service, reenlisted and joined other regiments than those to which they originally belonged. Others were appointed on special duty and have made honorable records in their several departments.

Col. H. T. Noble, who was mustered into the United States service as captain of Co. A, 13th reg. Ill. Vols., was appointed assistant quartermaster, after which he was successively promoted to the rank of major, lieutenant-colonel, and colonel, chief quartermaster on the staff of Gen. J. J. Reynolds. In reference to his service we find the following items of record:

#### QUARTERMASTER GENERAL'S OFFICE,

WASHINGTON, D.C., August 9, 1864.

CAPT. H. T. NOBLE, A.Q.M., Helena, Arkansas.

*Captain:* An examination of the Inspection Report of the Quartermaster's Department of the Department of the Arkansas, made by Col. D. B. Sackett, inspector-general, dated June 8, 1864, reveals the fact that you have conducted the quartermaster's busi-



ness, over which you have had control, in a most creditable manner; that your "books and papers are in most beautiful order, cash account balanced every night," and that you have the confidence and esteem of all who know you, because of your integrity, energy and efficiency.

The quartermaster-general cannot let the opportunity pass without adding his approbation, and commending you for the manifestation of this best evidence of your genuine patriotism and devoted loyalty.

The individual who so contributes by his honesty, industry and zeal to the maintenance of his country's honor in the hour of her trials shall not be forgotten in the record of the many meritorious whose high motives have steeled them against taking advantage of the evil opportunities on almost every hand, which the weak and selfish grasp to weaken our cause by the practice of every species of villainess, losing sight of everything else but self and temporary selfish gratification.

Such spirits find their ignominious level here and hereafter. But the true and noble minded live beyond the present: their memories shall come back laden with joyous messages to gladden the hearthstone circle, and the hearts of generations yet to come.

These considerations should encourage us all to the continued faithful performance of every trust imposed upon us.

I am, Captain, very respectfully,

Your obedient servant.

By order of the quartermaster-general U.S.A.

Brevet major-general

sd | GEO. V. RUTHERFORD,

A true copy.

Capt. and A.Q.M.

H. A. KRYER,

Brevet major and A.Q.M.

QUARTERMASTER GENERAL'S OFFICE,

January 13, 1865.

GENERAL L. THOMAS,

Adjutant-general U.S.A., Washington, D.C.

*General:* I have the honor to return herewith the letter of Maj. Gen. J. J. Reynolds, comd'g department of Arkansas, recommending Capt. H. T. Noble for appointment as colonel and chief quartermaster of that department, referred to this office by the adjutant-general, on the 9th inst., with the following extract from an inspection report of Col. J. D. Cruttenden, inspector Q.M.D., made on the 19th of Dec. 1864:



*W. D. Van Epps*  
(DECEASED)



"I found everything under the charge of captain Noble in most  
 "excellent order, —mules in fine condition, wagons in fine repair,  
 "forage well stored, steamers unloaded immediately on their arrival,  
 "be it night or day."

"All books, papers and accounts in the most beautiful order;  
 "cash account balanced every night. Have not seen papers bet-  
 "ter kept anywhere. He stands high with all who know him, as a  
 "man of intelligence and integrity. I doubt if the quartermaster's  
 "department can boast of many more efficient and energetic officers  
 "than Capt. Noble. He is certainly capable of filling with credit  
 "any and all positions in the Q.M. Dept."

\* \* \* \* \*

I am, very respectfully,

Your obedient servant.

[sd] CHAS. THOMAS.

True copy.

Act'g Q.M.Gen'l Br't Brig. Gen.

H. A. KRYER,

Br't-Maj. and A.Q.M.

John D. Crabtree, Esq., who went out with the 13th reg., was transferred as second lieutenant to Bowen's Batt. Mo. Cav., September 5, 1861. On November 25, 1862, he was promoted to the captaincy in command of Co. M, 3d Mo. Cav. He commanded the escort of Gen. Curtis during the latter's command of the department of Missouri. He afterward served as judge advocate of the court-martial division of Arkansas, in 1864. Returning home in that year, he was appointed in service of the government, as mustering officer at Springfield, this state. The judge, at different times during the service, received honorable mention for deportment as an officer during engagements; one which may be especially mentioned was the battle of Pea Ridge, under Gen. Curtis; and at the close of his service he was commissioned brevet-major, under the signatures of the President of the United States and Gen. Stanton, secretary of war, as a token of appreciation of "faithful and meritorious services."

#### BIOGRAPHICAL.

NATHAN MOORHOUSE (deceased) was born March 14, 1801, at New Fairfield, Connecticut. When he was but two years old his father died, and at the age of about six years he was bound out to a farmer. Not liking his guardian he ran away from him when he had reached the age of thirteen years. He went on board a ship that was about sailing, and was gone on a seven years' voyage, most of which was on the Mediterranean sea. When he returned to New York he was engaged



a year or more at navigation on the Hudson river, and after that was married to Miss Sarah Ains, of New Paltz, New York, where they lived until 1827. They then removed to Ohio, and later to Indiana, and in 1835 to Lee county, Illinois. They located in Palmyra township, where his property and home was, principally, during his life. He was a very useful and active man in developing the resources of the county, having opened seven farms in Lee county, and was foremost in the promotion of law and order in society, at the earlier settlement. He held several public offices worthy of consideration, but aside from those of county treasurer, and probably deputy sheriff, we are not reliably informed. He was the father of nine children, but three of whom are now living, one of whom, Thomas C. Moorehouse, is living at Dixon. He died June 18, 1878, in Dixon, and his wife four days later.

WILLIAM W. BETHEA, farmer, Dixon, son of Philip and Mary (Millsap) Bethea, was born in Marion district, South Carolina, May 15, 1812, and was of Welsh descent on the paternal side. His father, who served in the war of 1812, and also in the Creek Indian war which occurred soon after, migrated from South Carolina to Overton county, Tennessee, in fall of 1812, and again removed to Lawrence county, Indiana, in 1828, where he died in 1834, at the age of fifty-four years, leaving a family of five sons and two daughters. In the spring of 1835 W. W. Bethea started westward to seek a home, and being attracted by the beauty and fertility of the then almost uninhabited Rock River country, he soon after located a farm in what is now known as Palmyra township, which he still occupies. Mr. Bethea was one of the earliest settlers of this section and has seen its development from the almost primeval wilderness of 1835 to the flourishing and populous community of to-day. He was elected county treasurer in 1845 and served two terms. At the organization of Lee county, in 1839, he was elected justice of the peace, and held that office uninterruptedly until 1877. Mr. Bethea was married in Lawrence county, Indiana, in 1833, to Miss Irena Fender, who died in 1838. He was again married, in 1850, to Mrs. Emily (Green) Ferguson, who is still living.

JAMES GOBLE, ex-sheriff of Lee county, Dixon, was born July 22, 1811, in Kingston, Luzerne county, Pennsylvania. He spent his earlier youth at Exeter, Pennsylvania, laboring on his father's farm, and attending the public schools. At the age of sixteen years he entered a dry-goods store as clerk, at Wilkesbarre, Pennsylvania. At the end of three years his health failing, he was obliged to give up confinement for the farm. In 1837 he came west and settled in Lee county, which has ever since been his home. In 1838 having purchased a claim and built a log-house upon it he was married to Christiana Harding, a

daughter of a family who came to this county from his former home in Pennsylvania. Mr. Goble states that for some years they lived in this primitive dwelling as happy as could be. In 1846 he was elected county commissioner, and in 1848 he resigned that office and was elected sheriff. He then left his farm and removed to Dixon, where he has since lived. He has held the office of coroner, and others of minor importance. Politically he is a democrat, and cast his first vote in 1832 for President Jackson. By the year 1846 all his family had followed him to Lee county, and that Fourth of July they held a family re-union, at which were gathered forty-four members, including grandchildren. He is the father of five children, only one of whom is now living, Mrs. Wadsworth, of Dixon. He lost his wife in the great bridge disaster at Dixon, May 4, 1873. She stood on the span at the north pier, holding a little grandchild in her arms, witnessing a baptismal ceremony. The bridge breaking, she threw the child so near to shore that it was picked up and brought to life, but she was drowned. She was a pious lady and died a member of the Baptist church.

MAHLON P. BURKET, farmer, Dixon, was born October 31, 1843, in Blair county, Pennsylvania. In June, 1847, his parents removed to Lee county, Illinois, where he has ever since lived. His whole work has been farming, and during his youth he received a good common education at the public schools. He has traveled more, probably, than a majority of farmers, and is well posted on the general topics of the day. He succeeded his father in the proprietorship of the old homestead, a beautiful farm-home two miles from Dixon, on the Franklin road. Mr. John N. Burket, the father of the above, purchased this home immediately on coming to Lee county, and has made it what it now is. He was a quiet but most useful man to his community, and has lived a good example. It has been remarked that his distinguishing characteristic, aside from industry, was his extremely temperate habits and pure life. He was a member of the Lutheran church, and the present organization of that denomination at the city of Dixon was made at a meeting held in his barn at an early day, Rev. Mr. Stoh officiating. He died January 3, 1865, in the house which his own hands had built.

JOHN COURTWRIGHT, farmer and carpenter, Dixon, was born December 25, 1820, in Luzerne county, Pennsylvania. He spent the earlier part of his life there, laboring on his father's farm, and received a common school education. In July, 1840, he emigrated to Lee county, Illinois, where he has since lived. In 1842 he began working at the carpenter trade, and has pursued it more or less ever since. In July, 1846, he was married to Lydia, daughter of Joel Whitney, of Ogle county, Illinois, and they began life together on their present

farm home, about two miles from Dixon, on the Franklin road. They have witnessed the turning of a wild country, inhabited chiefly by Indians, into a land of bounty and civilization, braving many dangers and hardships with which pioneer life in this region was fraught. Mr. Courtwright owned the first reaping machine brought to Rock river, and the first threshing machine in Lee county. He helped in building the first county jail, and also the first church (Methodist Episcopal) built at Dixon. He is the father of several children, only one of whom, a daughter, is now living. He has been an indulgent father and kind husband, and is recognized and respected among his neighbors. He is a republican in politics, and a Methodist in church preference.

ISAAC MEANS, dealer in farmers' supplies, Dixon, was born in Tyrone county, Ireland, November 15, 1815, where he attained a liberal education and was employed at farming. In April, 1840, he emigrated to the United States, landing at New York, and in June following located at Dixon, where he has since lived. For some years he was engaged at contracting in mason work and house building; commencing the business on \$45, which was all he had. In 1851 he opened a lumber-yard in Dixon, which he continued about ten years, and then began his present line of farmers' exchange. He has been very successful in business, notwithstanding he has sustained some heavy losses by reposing too much confidence in his fellow men. He has extensive real estate interests in Lee county and vicinity, which, taken with his exchange, makes his business one of much importance. He has been twice married, and has no children. He is a liberal minded, public-spirited gentleman, and has been a most useful man to the city and community, socially as well as financially. He was one of the few who were faithful during the earlier banditti outrages through this section, and relates some very hazardous experiences of those times. He is an independent in his religious views, and accords to all the world liberty of thought upon this subject. For thirty-eight years he has been a Freemason. Prior to the organization of the republican party he was a whig, but since then has been a staunch republican.

WALTER LITTLE, sheriff, Dixon, was born September 7, 1841, at Malugin's Grove, Lee county, Illinois. Until sixteen years old he was employed on his father's farm, and in attending school. At that age he lost both of his parents, and after that he attended school, mostly at Paw Paw, until nineteen years old, gaining a liberal education. At the age of twenty years he enlisted for a term of three years in Co. F, 1st Ill. Light Art., of the U. S. Vols., and passed unharmed, in the rank and file, through some of the severest battles of the war.

He took part in nearly all the battles of the Georgia campaign. For some time he was the bearer of a set of colors that were presented to his company by the citizens of Dixon. At the close of the war, in 1865, he was married to Miss Cornelia F. Nichols, of Malugin's Grove, and engaged at farming. In the fall of 1880 he was elected sheriff of Lee county, and is the present very efficient incumbent. He has held various town offices. He is and has always been a republican in politics. He subscribes to no church rituals, but favors a decided morality. He is a member of the order of Freemasons, and has filled various offices in his lodge. He is also a member of the Knights of the Red Cross.

It is a rare thing for the writer to be called upon to record the life, or even a small portion thereof, of a gentleman who has so long been engaged in an active public life as the subject of this sketch, Hon. LORENZO WOOD. So varied and numerous has been the range of his efforts, that to do justice to all would be impossible in the space which we can allot to it. Judge Wood was born in November 1818, in Middlebury, Vermont. Until about the age of sixteen years he worked at the carpentering trade, attending, when he could do so, the public schools of his native town; and later he entered the Middlebury College, where he obtained a very liberal education. On leaving college he began the study of law in a law office at Middlebury, but soon after (in 1839) concluded to come west. He stopped at Detroit, Michigan, where he took a three years' course at professional reading in the office and under the direction of Gov. Woodbridge, of that city. He left Detroit in 1842 for the west, coming direct to Lee county, Illinois, which has ever since been his home. In February, 1843, he was admitted and enrolled as an attorney-at-law in Illinois. The judge states, in connection with this, that he was too poor to afford the expense of a journey to Springfield (as was the custom in those days), and that he sent a certificate of reading, and made such other compliance as by the court were held requisite. In return he received his certificate of admission, which is written on a sheet of "Congress letter" paper, with a steel pen, and signed by S. A. Douglas and S. H. Treat. He immediately opened a law office in the city of Dixon, and his first four cases were in bankruptcy. He was successful in all of them, and he received fees of \$100 each. This gave him quite a "boost," and was the beginning of many years' successful practice. A few years after being admitted to the bar he was elected county judge, which office he held until in 1852, when he resigned and moved on a farm which he owned in Lee county. In 1860 the house and improvements on his farm were almost totally destroyed by the "Comanche tornado" that passed over this section of Illinois, which



very seriously crippled his fortune. In the fall of 1860 he removed to Dixon, where he has since resided, and has been almost constantly in public life, filling the offices of master in chancery and internal revenue assessor; he has been longer chairman of the board of supervisors than any other man in Lee county; and has filled various other minor offices. In 1865 he purchased an interest in the "Hydraulic Power Company" at Dixon, which he brought through some legal embarrassment, and afterward started some manufacturing concerns, which proved losing undertakings to him, again reducing his property. He has been a prominent Freemason for many years. His church preferences are for the Presbyterian. He has been twice married, and is the father of four children, three of whom are now living. The judge was present at the organization of the republican party, at Bloomington, and heard the speeches there; prior to that he had been a whig, but since then has been a radical republican. Speaking of the leaders of the two great parties, the judge says that in his boyhood days he played some pranks upon Stephen A. Douglas, who was then working at carpentering; that Douglas was the most determined fellow he ever saw,—he ran after him, finally caught him, and spanked him with a jack-plane; he adds that the punishment was just.

JAMES C. MEAD, books, stationery, etc., Dixon, was born February 11, 1831, in Monroe county, New York, and obtained his earlier education there. In 1843 he came with his parents to Dixon, Illinois, he attended the public schools a short time, and later was taken as clerk in the post-office, under David Birdsall. In the spring of 1849 he concluded to learn a trade, and started to go to Chicago for that purpose. He had \$5 in his pocket, and, with a pack of clothing on his back, he commenced the journey on foot. He had not gone far, however, when he caught a ride with a farmer, on a load of wheat. It will be remembered that this was before the days of railroads in this vicinity, and farmers were obliged to haul their produce to Chicago to find a market, and to bring back dry-goods and lumber for the trade of the town. Stopping at Naperville for dinner, young Mead met a friend who was a harness-maker, and who prevailed upon him to stop and learn that trade with him. In about six months after this the cholera broke out and his employer died, and after settling the accounts of the business he returned to Dixon. In the following spring he again started out on foot, stopping at Aurora and Naperville, intending to engage at harness-making; but not being able to obtain employment at that, he entered a printing-office at Naperville. He learned that business rapidly, and was employed in that office about a year, at which time Mr. C. R. Fisk sent for him to come to Dixon and assist him in opening and establishing a printing-office; which was the first

one in Dixon. After a short engagement with this enterprise he went to Oregon, Illinois, where he became publisher of the "Ogle County Reporter," in which business he continued for two years. At this time he returned to Dixon, and engaged as clerk in the private bank and land office of E. B. Stiles, where he was employed until March 1, 1854. He then opened a bookstore at his present site, on Galena street, in a room 12×20 feet, which was the first establishment of that kind in Dixon. Prosperity attended him, and in a few years he had amassed considerable property, and his store had grown to its present magnitude. He subsequently met with severe reverses, which materially injured and retarded him; but being a live business man, and enjoying the full vigor of his powers, he is again on the forward march. At the age of twenty-two he became a Freemason, and for many years was secretary of the lodge at Dixon. He has been a prominent worker in the Sunday schools and a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. He has been twice married, and is the father of five children, four of whom are now living. In politics Mr. Mead is a republican. In social life he is pleasant and affable.

THERON CUMINS, manufacturer, Dixon, was born in Vermont in 1825. He was the son of Joseph and Hannah (Converse) Cumins, both of whom are now dead. His parents left Vermont and moved to Ohio when he was fifteen years of age, and settled in Geauga county. After remaining there for two years he came around by way of the lakes to Chicago, from thence by stage to Dixon, having but \$3 in his pocket on his arrival. From Dixon he went to Grand Detour, where he obtained a position of clerk in the store of W. A. House & Co., at a small salary, remaining there for two years and a half. He then returned to Newark, Ohio, and for four years clerked in the store of J. O. and H. Smith. He then returned to Grand Detour and went into business with the firm for which he had formerly been a clerk, under the firm name of T. Cumins & Co. This firm was dissolved within less than three years, and he returned to Bucyrus, Ohio, and having formed a business connection with A. Haynes, under the firm name of A. Haynes & Co., they obtained a large grading contract on the Ohio & Indiana railroad, afterward a part of the Pittsburg & Fort Wayne railroad. On the extension of the latter road the firm obtained large contracts for grading and bridging, which, a few months after, they sold to other parties, realizing a handsome profit for themselves. Mr. Cumins again returned to Grand Detour, where he became general manager for Leonard Andrus, former proprietor of the G. T. Plow Works, continuing in that capacity for about two years, when he became an equal partner with Mr. Andrus. At the death of Mr. Andrus, which occurred six years afterward, Mr. Cumins purchased

his interest and became sole proprietor, and so continued for about two years and a half, when the works were removed to Dixon, and an interest in the business was purchased by Col. H. T. Noble, the firm becoming Cumins & Noble. Mr. Cumins was married at Grand Detour in 1854, to Miss Josephine Harris, and has two daughters living. Mr. Cumins is a truly self-made man and adds another name to the list of those whose integrity, energy, and perseverance have brought them from humble circumstances to wealth and prominence.

SHERWOOD DIXON, attorney, Dixon, was born November 15, 1847, at Dixon, and was the son of James P. and Fannie (Reed) Dixon, and the grandson of John (Father) Dixon. James P. Dixon was born in the city of New York, March 6, 1811, and came with his parents to Illinois in 1827, and to Dixon in 1829. Upon arriving at manhood he engaged in active business, and was for a long time agent for Flint & Walker's stage line, and in the latter years of his life was in the livery business. He also held several positions of honor and trust, being a county commissioner at the organization of Lee county and likewise at the time the court-house was erected. He also held the position of postmaster for several years. He was married December 7, 1834, to Miss Fannie Reed, daughter of Samuel Reed, the first settler of Buffalo Grove, in Ogle county, where he located in 1831. The following children were born to Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Dixon, all but the last of whom are still living: Henrietta, born in 1836, married in 1860 to William H. Richards; Elizabeth, born in 1838, married in 1856 to William Barge; Sarah, born in 1845, married in 1870 to George W. Goodwin; John R., born in 1842, married in 1872, and now resides in Michigan; Sherwood, who still resides in Dixon; and Susan F., born in 1839, married in 1861 to Amos Goodwin, and died at Dixon, September 15, 1878. James P. Dixon died April 5, 1873, at Dixon, but his widow, now in her sixty-sixth year, is still living and at present residing with her son, Sherwood Dixon. The subject of our sketch was educated in the public schools of his native place, and in February, 1866, commenced the study of law with Wm. Barge, Esq. He was admitted in January 1869, and commenced practice as junior member of the firm of Eustace, Barge & Dixon, in August 1869. In October, 1874, Messrs. Barge & Dixon removed to Chicago, and forming a partnership with W. W. O'Brien, of that city, practiced their profession there until November 1877, when they returned to Dixon. In March, 1878, Mr. Dixon dissolved his connection with the firm of Barge & Dixon and formed a partnership with Mr. S. H. Bethea, the new firm succeeding to the firm and business of Eustace & Bethea. Mr. Dixon was appointed master in chancery in June 1880, and is serving his second term as a member of the board of education. He was married November 16,

1869, to Miss Melissa G. Mead, daughter of the late H. P. Mead, and has two sons, Henry S., aged eleven, and Louis N., aged eight years. Mr. Dixon's political views are democratic, and he is chairman of the county committee of that party. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and has been for two years superintendent of the Sunday-school of that denomination.

JONATHAN N. HILLS, ex-sheriff of Lee county, Dixon, was born July 24, 1829, in Oneida county, New York. He spent his early life at farming, and received a common school education. In 1849, with his father's family, he came to Lee county, Illinois, and they settled in Malugin's Grove, where his father died, June 5, 1864. In 1868 he engaged in mercantile pursuits, the firm name being Hills & Carnahan, at Malugin's Grove, which business they continued five years. In 1876 he was elected sheriff of Lee county, and in November of that year removed to Dixon, where he has since continued to reside. In 1878 he was reelected. He has since filled various town offices, but has been justice of the peace longer than any other. He has always been a line republican. Mr. Hills aspired to a military record, but because of ill health was rejected from the service. He was married December 17, 1851, to Miss Nancy Merwin, of Paw Paw Grove, Lee county, and they have six children, one of whom, a daughter, is married and living in Kansas; the others are at home. Mr. Hills is an active member and officer in the Methodist Episcopal church at Dixon, and is also a warm friend of Sunday-schools. He is a member of the blue lodge (of which he is master), the royal arch chapter, and the Dixon commandery of Knights Templar. He is also a member of the I.O.O.F. Mr. Hills is a firm temperance man, and believes in moderation in all things, excess in none.

HON. JAMES B. CHARTERS, county judge, Dixon, was born July 11, 1831, in the city of Belfast, Ireland. He is the only son of Alexander Charters, popularly known as "Governor" Charters. Until seventeen years of age the judge attended school at Carafurgus Island, after which he was placed in the Trinity College at Dublin, Ireland. He graduated from that institution in 1852, and afterward kept his law terms at the Inner Temple, in London, England. Immediately after graduating in law he came to Dixon, Illinois, where his father had lived since the spring of 1838. His father's home was a beautiful country site, two miles from the city of Dixon, on the Rock river, the lands of which he purchased from the United States government, and christened the manor Hazelwood. Here, in 1853, the judge was married to Miss Fannie Charters, a lady of his own country and house. In 1856 he commenced the practice of law at Dixon, where he has ever since been engaged in professional pursuits. In 1877 he was elected



judge of the county court of Lee county, and since that time has been the incumbent of that office. Prior to his election as county judge he served one term as mayor of the city of Dixon. He has been largely interested in several manufacturing establishments at Dixon, among which we may mention the Dixon File Works, of which he was secretary and treasurer. In 1868 the concern was converted into the Western Knitting Mills, which were burned in 1873, with a loss of about \$60,000, a heavy share of the loss falling upon the judge. The mills were never rebuilt. Politically the judge supports the democratic principles, as they were discussed in the debates upon the constitution. He is a prominent member of the blue lodge, royal-arch chapter, and commandery of Knights Templar. He is a member and vestryman of the Episcopal church at Dixon. Personally Mr. Charters is a gentleman of pleasing address and cordial manner.

HON. JOHN D. CRAETREE, attorney-at-law, Dixon, was born November 19, 1837, in Nottingham, England, and with his parents came to America in 1848. They came direct to Winnebago county, Illinois, where they settled and remained some time. In 1853 they removed to Dixon, which has since then been his home. The judge's opportunities for obtaining an education were few, yet by hard work and close application he managed to obtain quite a liberal one. He had privately read law some, prior to June 1, 1861, at which date he entered the office of Mr. Edsall (now attorney-general of Illinois); but taking an active interest in the result of the rebellion he enlisted as a private soldier, April 17 of the same year. Here he made a brilliant record, rising by promotion and appointment to the office of captain of Co. F, 3d Mo. Cav., and before the close of the war had been breveted major. He was mustered out of the service November 5, 1865, and on returning home he reentered the office of Mr. Edsall, and resumed his professional reading. In July, 1866, he was admitted to the bar, and in October following formed a partnership with Mr. Edsall, which continued three years. He was then elected county judge of Lee county, which office he held eight years. At the expiration of that time he resumed the practice of law at Dixon, and that has been his business since. He is a fluent speaker, a deep and active reasoner, and wields a strong influence in the public sentiments and politics of Lee county. He cast his first vote for president Lincoln, and has voted for every president since then, living up to the republican principals as he taught them. He has held prominent offices in the various masonic orders, and has been a member of the I.O.O.F. He is a member of the veteran soldiers organization called O.C.D. His church preferences are for the Baptist, though he subscribes to no church ritual. His fine social qualities, combined with excellent abilities, make him a general favorite among his friends, both in and out of the profession.

SAMUEL C. EELLS banker, Dixon, was born in Delaware county, New York, March 19, 1822, where he spent his youth on a farm, and later as a clerk in a dry-goods store. As soon as sufficiently advanced he entered the Delaware Academy, where he received a very liberal education. In 1854 he was married to Miss Annie More, a lady of his own nativity, and they now have three children, all living. The same year he came to Dixon, Illinois, as bookkeeper for the firm of Robertson, Eastman & Co. In the spring of 1855 Mr. Eastman retired from the firm, and it then became Robertson, Eells & Co. In 1859 the firm was changed to Eells & Coleman, and in the spring of 1865 was succeeded by the organization of the Lee county national bank. In this institution Mr. Eells became cashier, and Mr. Coleman assistant cashier; the latter has since retired from the business. The life of our subject has been one of even tenor and his just pride is in his financial career. Politically he is a staunch republican and exerts a telling but quiet influence for his party. He is a member of the Episcopal church at Dixon, and is a warm friend and supporter of all churches. He is the pronounced friend of educational institutions. Personally he is a man of a kind heart and courteous address.

WILLIAM H. VAN EPPS, farmer, Dixon, was born in Genesee county, New York, in December 1842. His parents were William H. and Charlotte R. (Churchill) Van Epps. The father of the subject of our sketch, the Hon. W. H. Van Epps, deceased, for many years a prominent resident and merchant of Dixon, was born in 1812, at Schenectady, New York, and was the son of John A. and Deborah (Housman) Van Epps, whose great-grandparents emigrated from Holland early in the last century. His parents removed to Genesee county, New York, in 1813, where his father (who served in the war of 1812) died in 1816. In 1829 his mother removed to Monroe county, New York, where he attended the best schools. In 1837 he determined to go west, and having located in Fulton county, Illinois, engaged in various successful enterprises until 1848, when he returned to Genesee county. In 1854 he again came west and settled at Dixon, where he opened an extensive dry-goods and general store, which he carried on for more than twenty years. In 1856 he became a member of the Illinois State Board of Agriculture, and in 1860 was made its president, serving in that capacity for four years. In 1868 he was the candidate of the democratic party of which he was a member) for lieutenant-governor. He was twice married, his first wife being Miss Charlotte R. Churchill, of Genesee county, who died in 1848. He was again married in 1850 to Miss Mary A. Peek, also of Genesee county, New York. His death occurred October 8, 1877, at the age of sixty-five years. Up to the time of the family's arrival in Dixon the history of the present W. H. Van Epps

is comprised in that of his father. He received excellent educational advantages, and after leaving school was in the employ of James R. Ashley, of Morrison, until he enlisted in the marine artillery in August, 1862, serving with them a few months only. On leaving the service he returned to Dixon, and with the exception of some three or four years, during which time he twice went to California, remaining about a year each time, he has been steadily engaged in farming. He was married to Miss Leah Emery, on December 6, 1877.

WILLIAM BARGE, attorney, Dixon, was born February 26, 1832. His parents were John and Jane (Elliott) Barge, and he is of French descent on his father's, and Scotch on his mother's side. In 1833 the family removed to Richland county, Ohio, where the earlier years of Mr. Barge were passed. The family removed from Richland county to Wayne county, Ohio, in 1839, his father dying there in 1850. During this time Mr. Barge attended the Wooster Academy, where the greater part of his education was acquired. In 1851, with his mother and two sisters, he removed to Rock Island, Illinois, where he entered the law office of Pleasants & Henderson as a student. Removing to Dixon in 1854 he started the first graded school (outside of Chicago, at least) in the state, and continued in charge of it until 1859. He commenced to practice law in 1860, and after being for some time a partner of H. B. Fogg, Esq., became in 1869 a member of the firm of Eustace, Barge & Dixon. In the fall of 1874 Messrs. Barge & Dixon removed to Chicago, becoming associated there with W. W. O'Brien, Esq., but being appointed in 1877 attorney of the Illinois Central railroad, he again returned to Dixon. He has had also, for many years, charge of the legal interests of the Chicago & Northwestern railroad in his section, and still continues to hold the important trust confided to him by both corporations. Mr. Barge was married August 19, 1856, to Miss Elizabeth Dixon, granddaughter of the old pioneer John Dixon, and is the father of five children: Mrs. Rathbun, wife of W. W. Rathbun, Esq., of Mercer county, Illinois; W. D. Barge, who has just been admitted to the bar and has become a partner of his father; John J., aged twenty, Lizzie M., aged fourteen, and Charles R., aged nine years. Mr. Barge, though never active in political matters, is a democrat from conviction, and has long been one of the most prominent members of the legal profession in northern Illinois.

HON. JASON C. AYRES, Dixon, was born August 22, 1835, in St. Lawrence county, New York, and in 1836 his parents moved to the west, and settled in the vicinity of Fort Wayne, Indiana, where his father died when the subject of our sketch was nearly four years of age, and in the following year his people returned to Buffalo, New York, where his youth was spent and where he received a very liberal education,

with special direction to the profession of surveying and civil-engineering. At the age of eighteen he located in Chicago, and in the spring of 1854 settled in Dixon, Illinois, where he has since resided. Here he was for a short time engaged in a small mercantile business, which proving unprofitable he abandoned it. He then went into business as land agent and surveyor, in connection with the Hon. Jos. Crawford, forming a partnership that continued until 1863. During the latter year they prepared and published, from actual surveys, the first correct and authentic map of Lee county. Mr. Ayres afterward continued the real-estate business, devoting the greater portion of his time to reading law. In 1870 he was admitted to the bar, but has never engaged exclusively in the general practice of his profession. Being a surveyor as well as an attorney, he has made a specialty of conveyancing, and has pushed his business to successful growth and substantial results, and for many years has been engaged in making and negotiating loans on real-estate securities. He is also a prominent stockholder in, and president of the Dixon national bank. While his financial advancement has been very signal, his social record is an enviable one. He was elected city clerk March 6, 1861, and has held that office ever since, a duration of over twenty consecutive years, and March 16, 1864, he was elected city treasurer, which post he has ever since had. Politically he is a staunch republican. He is a member of the Masonic order, a Royal Arch Mason and Knight Templar; in lodge, chapter, council and commandery he has held prominent offices. He was married May 7, 1861, to Miss Lovina, daughter of Dr. Jno. S. Crawford, of Williamsport, Pennsylvania. They have two children, a daughter now grown, and a son.

HON. JOHN V. THOMAS, mayor of the city of Dixon, was born at Princeton, New Jersey, October 30, 1835. He spent his youth there, and took a full classical course in the Princeton College. In 1857 he came west, and being pleased with it concluded to abide in Dixon; soon after he began the study of medicine, under the tutorship of Dr. Oliver Everett, at Dixon, and afterward, during the winter of 1859-60, attended lectures at the Keokuk (Iowa) Medical College; but before he had completed his course there he was called into the hospital service of the government, where his duties, though of short duration, had the effect to turn him from the further pursuit of that profession. On returning home he took a course in didactics, under Prof. A. M. Gow, and afterward began the business of teaching; first at Nelson, Illinois, and subsequently at Dixon, as principal of the north side public schools. Here he remained until 1874, when, on account of impaired health, he was obliged to abandon it. He then engaged in the real-estate and insurance business, which has been attended with successful



results and substantial growth. When he gave up teaching the citizens chose him city councilman, and afterward mayor of the city, the second term of which office he is now filling. In various ways they have demonstrated their appreciation and respect for his high moral worth and superior abilities. For many years he has been a prominent member of the A.F. and A.M., and master of Friendship Lodge. He has been high priest in the Royal Arch Chapter, and is now prelate of the Dixon Commandery of Knights Templar, which post he has had for three years. He is also a member of the I.O.O.F. His preferences are for the Episcopalian church. In 1861 he was married to Miss Ellen J., daughter of Dr. Dewitt C. Warner, then of Dixon; they have three children, the oldest of whom is a son, now a law student at Dixon.

EUGENE PINCKNEY, attorney-at-law and loan agent, Dixon, was born in 1839, in New York city, where he obtained his earlier education. Later he was sent to the Wesleyan Institute, located at Newark, New Jersey, and afterward to the New Jersey Institute, at Pennington, New Jersey, from which he graduated in 1852. He then entered Princeton College, where he took a full course in the classics, and in March, 1856, he came west. In May of that year he came to Dixon, Illinois, which has ever since been his home. Here he began a course of professional reading, in the office and under the direction of Messrs. Heaton & Atherton, and in 1860 was admitted to the bar by the supreme court of Illinois. He immediately entered the practice of law, and subsequently added to his legal pursuits the business of loaning money upon real estate. He was prominently interested in the Dixon file works, an institution of considerable magnitude, but which is now extinct. He was the first editor of the Dixon "Sun," one of the leading papers in Lee county. His habits have always been those of a student, and his favorite fields of research have been in the natural sciences and profane and biblical literature. He is a member of the State Geological Society, and has recently organized the Dixon Biological Society, which has a promising future. He is master in the Forest Home Lodge of the A.O.U.W., located at Dixon. He is a prominent member of the Methodist Episcopal church at Dixon, and is an active Sunday-school worker, sometimes extending his work in this to other counties. He has been twice married, but has no children. He is a Jeffersonian democrat, and has never voted any other ticket.

HENRY P. BECKER, miller, Dixon, was born in Schoharie county, New York, in 1819. His parents were Peter I. and Lena (Woolford) Becker. He received a common school education, and at the age of seventeen went into his grandfather's mills to learn the business. He remained there about ten years, going from thence to Albany in 1847.

He resided there until the spring of 1850, when he migrated to Wisconsin, and after working for various parties until 1857 he in that year entered into partnership with Mr. Bean, under the style of Bean & Becker. In the fall of 1859 he closed his connection with this firm, and coming to Dixon he purchased an interest in the Dixon mill, then conducted by C. Godfrey & Son. His brother, John W. Becker, was also interested. In the following spring Mr. Godfrey's remaining interest was purchased by Nathan Underwood, and the firm became Beekers & Underwood, which on the retirement of J. W. Becker, in 1872, was changed to Becker & Underwood, as it still remains. Mr. Becker was married in 1840 to Miss Lucretia Tygert, of Albany county, New York, and had one son, Ezra S. Becker, born in Schoharie, New York, in 1841. He was a young man of great promise, and understood the milling business thoroughly in all its branches. He lost his life in the fire that destroyed the mill in 1880, a full account of which will be found elsewhere. It was a sad blow to his father, whose aged mother had died in 1878, followed by the death of his wife in 1879, and now the tragic fate of his only child, left Mr. Becker stripped of his whole family in the short space of twenty months. Mr. Becker is a republican, and is now serving his fourth term as alderman of the second ward of Dixon.

ABALINO C. BARDWELL, attorney-at-law, Dixon, was born October 23, 1844, at Conneautville, Pennsylvania, and was the son of George A. and Julia A. (Cutler) Bardwell. His parents removed to Whitesides county, Illinois, in 1853, where Mr. A. C. Bardwell received the most of his education at the neighboring schools. Coming to Dixon February 10, 1864, Mr. Bardwell commenced to study law in the office of Geo. P. Goodwin, Esq., and at the same time held a clerkship in the office of Hon. J. V. Eustace, then provost-marshal of the district. On February 10, 1865, he enlisted as a private in the 147th Ill. Inf., and upon the organization of the regiment was elected captain of Co. G. Having served for about three months as company commander, he was detached and appointed provost-marshal at Resaca, Georgia, and afterward served in the same capacity at Americus and Savannah until mustered out of service February 10, 1866. Returning home he resumed his law studies, attending Chicago law school during the winter of 1866-7, and being admitted to the bar soon after, he commenced the practice of his profession at Rochelle, Ogle county, Illinois, late in the following fall. Shortly after, his health becoming impaired, he removed to Dixon, and in the spring of 1868 established the Dixon "Herald," which was, in November 1869, merged into the Dixon "Telegraph," owned by a joint stock company with Mr. Bardwell as editor, in which position he continued until May 1871. In the ensuing Au-

gust he formed a partnership with Hon. J. K. Edsall, and resumed the practice of law. The firm was dissolved in 1872, Mr. Edsall having been elected attorney-general of the state, and Mr. Bardwell has since continued to practice alone. He was married in 1871, to Miss Clara C. Utley, daughter of Joseph Utley, Esq., of Dixon, and has one son, Henry W. Bardwell, nine years of age. Though a comparatively young man, Mr. Bardwell occupies an enviable position among his professional brethren, and citizens generally, both as a lawyer and a man.

A. CLINTON WARNER, deputy county treasurer, Dixon, was born in New Preston, Connecticut, April 3, 1850. He is the son of L. A. and Sarah D. Warner, of Freeport, Illinois, with whom he came west in 1855. He spent his youth at Freeport, obtaining a very liberal education in the schools of that city. In 1867 he entered the office of the county clerk, as deputy, of Stephenson county, of which Freeport is the county seat. He remained there until 1871, when he came to Dixon, where he was immediately employed as deputy in the county clerk's office. A little later he was given charge of the office of county treasurer, as deputy, under treasurer Josiah Little, and in connection with this he is now engaged. In May, 1878, he was licensed by the supreme court an attorney-at-law, but has not sought to engage in a general practice. He is a prominent stockholder, and a director in the Dixon national bank, at Dixon, and during the past few years has handled more real estate than any other man in Lee county. In December, 1875, he was married to Miss Myra O. Brookner, a lady of one of the oldest and most respected families in Dixon. They have three children, all boys. Mr. Warner is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and a warm friend of Sunday-schools. He is a man of refined tastes and correct habits, an energetic student, combined with active and growing business qualities. He is an independent republican.

GEORGE STEEL, capitalist, Dixon, was born at Lockport, Illinois, May 10, 1842, and was the son of George and Annie (Morrison) Steel. The elder Mr. Steel and his wife were both natives of Scotland. He was a contractor, and in that capacity was connected with many of the great enterprises of the northwest, such as the Welland canal, the Illinois and Michigan canal, the dredging of the Chicago river, etc. In a building owned by him the first informal meeting of the Board of Trade of Chicago was held. He was one of the original directors of the Galena division of the Chicago & Northwestern railroad. He built the first elevator at Chicago, and was one of the first to engage in the packing business, and in the lake trade. At the organization of the St. Andrew's Society of Chicago he was elected its president. He was a large real-estate owner, and erected many buildings. Death brought his active and prosperous career to a close on March 22, 1865, at the



Yours truly  
Henry T. Noble





age of sixty-seven. His son, George Steel, removed with his parents to Chicago in 1844, where he was brought up. He was educated at Mount Pleasant Academy, Sing Sing, New York, and Racine College, Racine, Wisconsin, and also attended the Chicago law college. He studied law for a time in the office of Hoyne, Miller & Lewis, of Chicago, but about 1861, becoming interested in railroad matters, he turned his attention to that line of business for about five years. He then became engaged in contracts for street pavements in Chicago and Cleveland, and also in the building of the lake tunnel in the former city, and at the same time was considerably interested in mining developments. Mr. Steel came to Dixon first in 1873, and has since been engaged in various enterprises in this vicinity. He was married July 11, 1871, to Miss Louise P. Van Epps, and has three children: Willie, aged ten, Annie, aged six, and an infant daughter. Mr. Steel is independent in political affairs, and is a member of the Presbyterian church.

ISSAC S. BOARDMAN, real estate dealer, Dixon, was born in Tioga county, New York, January 3, 1816, and is the son of Isaac S. and Abigail (Saltmarsh) Boardman. His father kept a public-house in Tioga county for over a quarter of a century, and was post-master of his town for more than twenty-seven years. Mr. Boardman left home at the age of sixteen, going to Bath, New York, where he clerked in a dry-goods store for six years. He then made arrangements to go into business in connection with his brother-in-law Mr. S. M. Bowman, and they resolved to locate at Dixon. Purchasing a stock of goods at New York and Philadelphia, which at that early day were shipped by way of Pittsburgh and the Ohio and Mississippi rivers, they arrived at Dixon in May 1837, and commenced business. At the organization of Lee county in 1838 Mr. Boardman was elected county clerk and served four years. Just before the expiration of his term of service he resigned and purchased a flouring-mill in Ogle county, which he operated until 1849, when he sold out and returned to Dixon, and was soon after elected to the office of clerk of the circuit court, which position he held for seven years. During this time he had purchased the "Republican and Telegraph," published at Dixon, and conducted that paper for about ten years, under the name of the "Dixon Telegraph." About 1868 Mr. Boardman retired from the active management of his paper, and placed it in the hands of his sons John D. and William, who had just graduated from the University of Michigan, and since that time Mr. Boardman's only connection with active business has been in looking after his large real-estate interests. He was married in 1840 to Miss Mary L. Dixon, a daughter of Father Dixon. She died in 1850, leaving three children. The eldest, Mary E., married Charles C. Pinckney, Esq., and is now residing at Denver, Colorado.

John D., the eldest son, was a graduate of the law department of the University of Michigan, and having become interested in mining in Arizona was killed there by a desperado in a dispute over a contested claim. William, the second son, after severing his connection with the "Dixon Telegraph," removed to Chicago to take charge of the business management of the "Rail Road Gazette." After the great fire the place of publication was transferred to New York city, and it is now very prosperous. Mr. Boardman was married a second time in 1854, to Miss Anna C. Campbell, of Mount Morris, Illinois. She died in 1863, leaving one daughter, now eighteen years of age. Mr. Boardman cast his first vote for Gen. Harrison, and for more than forty years has been an active whig and republican.

JOSEPH UTLEY, merchant, Dixon, was born in Western, Oneida county, New York, on July 27, 1815, and is the son of Henry and Sarah (Morse) Utley, and obtained his education at the schools in the neighborhood. After completing an academical course he entered his father's establishment, where he learned the trade of a tanner. He succeeded to his father's business in 1838 and carried on the same until 1859, in which year he removed to Dixon and opened a saddlery and hardware store, which he continued until 1867, when he turned over the business to his eldest son and has not since been actively engaged in business. He has for many years been much interested in the matter of cheap transportation, and has been prominently connected with the canals of this state, and in 1869 was appointed by Gov. Palmer a canal commissioner, holding that position until 1877, and most of the time was president of the board of canal commissioners. Mr. Utley was married in 1838 to Miss Frances Church, daughter of Seth Church, Esq., of Western, Oneida county, New York. They have three children: E. B. Utley, aged forty years, who is engaged in the saddlery-hardware and leather business at Dixon; Clara, aged thirty-seven years, and wife of A. C. Bardwell, a prominent attorney of Dixon, and Dr. J. H. Utley, aged thirty-four years, and now practicing his profession in Dixon. Politically Mr. Utley is a stalwart republican, and is a member of the Presbyterian church.

HON. JOHN V. EUSTACE, judge of the circuit court of the thirteenth judicial district, was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, September 9, 1821, and is the son of Thomas and Fannie (Olmsted) Eustace. His father and grandfather were both clergymen belonging to the Presbyterian denomination, the former being born in Dublin in 1797, migrating to America and first locating in Philadelphia, where he remained until 1839, when he removed to St. Louis, where he died from cholera in 1847. On the maternal side Judge E. is a descendant of Rev. Jonathan Ingersoll, who for thirty-seven years before the revo-

lution was the Presbyterian minister of Ridgefield, Conn. She married Ebenezer Olmstead, who was a colonel in the Connecticut line during that war. Her brother was the first lieutenant-governor of that state. Judge Eustace was educated at Philadelphia, graduating from the University of Pennsylvania in the summer of 1839. Soon after the family removed to St. Louis, where he entered the office of Hon. Charles D. Drake (now chief justice of the court of claims, Washington), as a law student, and was admitted to practice before reaching his twentieth year. He became a partner of Mr. Drake for a short time, but in 1843 removed to Dixon, where he practiced with much success until 1857, when he was elected judge of the circuit court upon its first establishment, but resigned before serving his full term, and resumed the practice of his profession. In 1861 he was appointed provost-marshal of the district, which position he held until the close of the war. He then became a member of the firm of Eustace, Barge & Dixon, which continued for several years, and in 1877 was again elected judge of the circuit court, to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Judge W. W. Heaton, and in 1879 was reelected for a full term of six years. He has also served in the state legislature and as a presidential elector, and in 1876 was the democratic candidate for attorney-general of Illinois, but was defeated along with the balance of the ticket. Judge Eustace was married at St. Louis in 1843, to Miss Anna M. Smith, and has four children: Fannie, born in Dixon, who is married to Henry W. Greetham and residing in Dixon; Thomas H., born in Dixon and now in the employ of a manufacturing firm at Freeport, Illinois; Elizabeth, born in Dixon, and married to Mr. John L. Orvis, of Dixon, and John V. jr., born in Dixon and now practicing law at Rockford, Illinois. In his political affiliations the judge is a democrat, but enjoys the esteem and confidence of his fellow citizens, without regard to party lines, as an able and upright expounder of the law.

LESTER D. PITCHER, dealer in agricultural implements, Dixon, was born in Lewis county, New York, July 28, 1839, and is the son of Philander and Mary (Agen) Pitcher. After leaving school he worked upon his father's farm until the spring of 1864, when he came to Illinois and located in Jo Daviess county. After farming for some two years he built a store and entered into the general merchandise business at Pitcherville, where he had succeeded in getting a postoffice established, and was made post-master, which office he held until 1871, when he removed to Dixon and engaged in the manufacture of the Excelsior Barley Forks, and of the Buck Patent Spring Bolster for lumber wagons. In 1877 he went into the agricultural implement business, which he still carries on. Mr. Pitcher was married January 20, 1871, to Miss Abigail Cramer, of Marshalltown, Iowa, and has two



children, Bessie, aged eight years, and Louis, an infant son. In 1862 Mr. Pitcher enlisted in the 5th N. Y. Heavy Artillery, but after serving about three months was discharged for disability. He is a republican in politics, and at the present time is alderman of the third ward of the city of Dixon.

DANIEL B. MCKENNEY, magistrate, Dixon, was born March 31, 1816, in Montgomery county, New York, and is the son of Peter and Rhoda (Tickner) McKenney. He removed with his parents in 1820 to Canada, where he resided during his childhood, and came to Dixon in the spring of 1836, when twenty years of age. His father came in that fall, when they together opened hotel in a log-house on Peoria street, Dixon. In the winter of 1836-7 he drove twenty miles west of Princeton, this state, and purchased one ton of fresh pork, for which he paid \$200. The same quantity could be bought the following winter for \$25. In the winter of 1836-7 flour was \$20 per barrel in Chicago, the nearest port of supply. Soon after this time oats were purchased at eight cents per bushel, and at one time he and his uncle bought up and stored a large quantity, which afterward became a total loss and were thrown away. In 1841 Mr. McKenney purchased seventy feet front on Main street, on which stood the first brick building erected in Dixon. Other buildings have been since built, until the ground was occupied. Soon after the purchase of this lot he engaged in merchandising, in which he continued for a number of years. After a life of twenty-six years, young Daniel was persuaded that it was not "good for man to live alone," and was united in marriage to Miss Eliza Ann Whitney, of Franklin Grove, in 1842. Mrs. McKenney is a daughter of Nathan and Sarah (Gray) Whitney, of Lee county, noticed in connection with Franklin Grove. In the spring of 1870 the subject of our sketch was elected magistrate in Dixon, in which office he has continued until present, his official acts being held in high esteem by all lovers of justice. In politics the Esquire is democratic in his affiliations, but voted for Abraham Lincoln through personal appreciation.

CAPT. JOHN DYSART, grain dealer and flour merchant, Dixon, was born in Huntington county, Pennsylvania, October 4, 1834, and is the son of Joseph and Mary Ann (Davis) Dysart. He spent the days of his childhood on a farm near Birmingham, Pennsylvania, in which place he received his early education. In 1857 he came to Illinois, and settled in Nachusa, Lee county, where he engaged in the grain and lumber trade, in which he continued for twenty years. On August 25, 1861, Mr. Dysart enlisted in Co. D, Bowen's Cavalry Battalion of Volunteers, entering the ranks as a private, from which he rose to the command of his company. The captain was in the Army of the Mis-

Mississippi, was in the battle of Pea Ridge as one of the many interesting experiences of army life. The captain was private only fifteen days, duty sergeant three months, orderly sergeant one year, quartermaster's department three months, lieutenant of the company from which he was promoted to captaincy, and was mustered out in October 1865. In the spring of 1877 he moved to Dixon, and engaged in the purchase and shipment of grain, occupying the stone elevator built by Col. John Dement, west of the Illinois Central depot, where he is still in an extensive business. The elevator has a capacity of 30,000, and is driven by steam-power, through which he handles about half a million of grain per annum. In the spring of 1880 he extended his business, through the elevator at the Illinois Central railroad, North Dixon, under the firm name of Messrs. Dysart & Brubaker. This firm has a flour house on Hennepin street, between Main and Water streets, where they ship for the trade from 300 to 400 barrels of flour per week, having exclusive control of the Becker & Underwood flour. Mr. Dysart also owns elevators at Nelson, five miles west on the Northwestern railroad, at Nachusa, five miles east, and at Franklin and Ashton, east, all on the Northwestern railroad. From these several points in Lee county is shipped to the Chicago house of Messrs. Dysart & Geoghegan. On March 9, 1865, Mr. Dysart was united in marriage to Miss E. L. Crawford, of Pennsylvania. As the result of this union are two interesting daughters. The family home is a beautiful residence, conveniently located on Crawford street in the city of Dixon.

FRANK W. LITTLE, deputy county clerk, Dixon, was born August 26, 1859, in the city of Dixon, Lee county, Illinois, and is the son of Joseph T. and Elliner W. (Cobb) Little. His parents came to Dixon in the fall of 1838, being among the early settlers of Lee county. His father was among the first merchants in Dixon, and in after years became associated with the manufacturing interests of the county, until he removed to the city of Washington, District of Columbia, in 1880.

ELIAS BOVEY, lumber merchant, Dixon, was born in Washington county, Maryland, June 19, 1835; and is the son of Jacob and Delila (Kretsinger) Bovey, of that state. He moved with his parents to Illinois and settled on a farm near Mount Morris, Ogle county, in 1843. He received his education in the common schools and Rock River seminary at Mount Morris, Ogle county. When twenty-one years of age he purchased a farm three miles south of Polo, and commenced business for himself, as a farmer. In the spring of 1867 he came to Lee county and located in Dixon, where he has since made his home. In 1872 he established a lumber yard on Water street, where he is still conducting a successful business. On the 26th of September, 1865, Mr. Bovey was united in marriage to Miss Jennie Buckalu, of Dixon,

who deceased February 6, 1877, and was conveyed to her final resting place in the Dixon cemetery. On the 17th of March, 1880, he was united in marriage to Miss Addie Clute, of Dixon. Mr. Bovey is a prominent member of the Methodist Episcopal church, in which he holds different official relations, and is an efficient Sabbath-school superintendent. Politically the subject of our sketch is a republican, and cast his first vote for Abraham Lincoln.

MAJOR OBADIAH DOWNING, agricultural merchant, Dixon, was born in Queen's county, Long Island, New York, April 12, 1836, and is the son of George and Mary (Jackson) Downing. The family, though of an English ancestry, have for several generations resided on Long Island, the Major's father and grandfather having been born in the same house. Having spent his childhood on the home farm, the Major, when a boy of sixteen, came to Chicago and made his home with his uncle, whom he assisted in the mercantile trade for six years, and in 1856 returned to Long Island, where he resided until the breaking out of the war of the rebellion. He responded to his country's call by enlisting in the United States service, and in August, 1861, entered Co. H, 24 reg. N. Y. Cav., as second lieutenant, and remained in the service until the close of the war, and was mustered out as lieutenant-colonel. He was under Gen. Sheridan in the department of the Potomac; and took part in all the principal battles of the Army of the Potomac, and during the great battle of the Wilderness, when Gen. Sheridan was menacing Richmond, on the 12th day of May, 1864, he fell into the hands of the enemy and was conveyed as prisoner of war to Libby Prison, and thence to Macon, Georgia. The Major was one of the five hundred Union officers who were sent as Union prisoners to Charleston, South Carolina, and placed by the confederate authorities under the fire of the federal guns to force the government to an exchange of prisoners. After remaining here a few weeks they were removed to Columbia, South Carolina. In the following August the Major effected an escape from prison, and was cared for by the colored people for two weeks while trying to reach the Union lines. He was, however, tracked down and recaptured by the aid of bloodhounds near Abbeville, South Carolina, and taken back to Columbia. Here he remained quiet for one month when about the 1st of October he and Col. Cook, afterward minister to Chili, run the guards on a dark, rainy night when the camp-fires were burning low and escaped to the mountains of Tennessee, where they kept themselves concealed for about three months. Finding it impossible to pass the rebel pickets, they reported at the rebel headquarters and represented themselves as confederate soldiers and obtained passes through their lines; but in crossing the mountains in the Cherokee country

they were taken by a patrol of Indians who were guarding the mountain passes to prevent the escape of deserters, and were carried back to the rebel headquarters, where they were confined and starved into a confession and returned to Libby prison; and on February 22, 1865, were exchanged and returned to the federal army.

A special order being issued in the war department that all soldiers having captured rebel flags should have a furlough to visit Washington and deposit the captured ensign, Col. Downing, being one of the honored number, visited the capital for the above purpose, and was present at the theater at the time of the assassination of President Lincoln, and witnessed that dreadful tragedy on April 13, 1865. After the close of the war he returned home on Long Island, and was chosen by the people of Queen's county to represent them in the state legislature in 1865, and was reelected in 1866. In 1867 the colonel came to Illinois and settled in Dixon. He assisted in establishing the first factory in the country for manufacturing cotton bagging out of flax tow, and in the fall of 1868 sold his interest to Col. John Dement. In the same fall he purchased a farm of 600 acres in Kane county, this state, where he made his home until 1876. In 1872 Col. Downing was united in marriage to Miss Mary Yates, of Kane county, and daughter of Bartholomew C. and Nancy (Tabias) Yates, formerly of western New York. In 1876 our subject sold half of his farm and returned to Dixon, where in 1879 he engaged in the agricultural trade in that city. The colonel has a beautiful home in north Dixon, and a family of three children: Miss Mary Olive, born March 27, 1874; Master George, born September 6, 1875, and Benjamin Franklin, born November 22, 1880.

COL. HENRY T. NOBLE, manufacturer, Dixon, is a native of Massachusetts, born in Otis, Berkshire county, that state, May 3, 1830. He is the son of Henry and Mary Ann (Hubbard) Noble. The genealogy of the family is traced back for seven generations to Thomas Noble, of England, who was born in 1632, and came to Boston some time prior to 1653, thence to Springfield, Massachusetts, and died in Westfield in 1704, aged seventy-two. The colonel, our present subject, spent his early life on a farm, during which time he was securing a liberal education preparatory to entering college, and became a member of the first class organized in the state normal school at Westfield, Massachusetts. Subsequently he devoted two years to school teaching. In 1850 he came to Illinois, and located in Dixon. The two succeeding years he devoted to school teaching, writing in the land office at such times as not engaged in his profession. In 1852 the colonel engaged in the purchase and collection of land warrants held by soldiers who served in the Mexican war; traveling through Missouri, Tennessee,



Kentucky and Alabama. On his return he located lands in Illinois, and engaged with his uncle, Silas Noble, in banking and real-estate business, until 1857. He was subsequently engaged in settling up the affairs of the bank until the beginning of the war in 1861. He was the first to enlist in the Union service in Lee county, enrolling his name five days after the firing on Fort Sumter, and proposed to be one of fifty to go to the front at once in his country's service. On April 20 he was chosen first lieutenant of Co. A, 13th reg. Ill. Vols., and was mustered into the United States service under the three-years call, May 24, as captain of said company. On July 8, 1863, he was promoted to the staff of the quartermaster's department; and in November of the same year he was promoted major, and in thirty days later commissioned lieutenant-colonel. About March 1, 1864, he was promoted colonel by the secretary of war on the staff of Major-General J. J. Reynolds, and appointed chief quartermaster, department of Arkansas; which position he held until October 15, 1866, when he was mustered out of the service at his own request, and under the expressed regrets of the commanding general of the department. After the acceptance of his resignation he returned home to Dixon, and in the following winter visited Washington and closed up his business with the government with gratifying results. The colonel was in constant service from April, 1861, to November, 1866, during which time he never lost a day, with the exception of a furlough of thirty days, which was afterward extended ten days, while he was in Washington, by Gen. E. D. Townsend, by order of the secretary of war. In 1866 he bought an interest in the Grand Detour plow works, now established at Dixon, under the firm of Commins, Noble & Dodge.

On February 27, 1853, Col. Noble was united in marriage to Miss Jane Ann Herrick, born in Chautauqua county, New York, and was the daughter of Samuel and Sally (Nash) Herrick. She was killed in the great bridge disaster at Dixon, Illinois, May 4, 1873. In 1875 he was married to Miss Mary Augusta Hampton, who was born in Boston, Erie county, New York, and was the daughter of Slater and Manerva (Ellis) Hampton. *Genealogy*: Col. Henry T. Noble, born 1830, in Otis, New York, son of Henry Noble and Mary A. (Hubbard) Noble; Henry Noble, born 1804, in G. Barrington, Mass., son of David Noble and Patience (Noble) Noble; David Noble, born 1771, G. Barrington, Mass., son of Preserved Noble and Elizabeth (Hughstand) Noble; Preserved Noble, born 1723, Westport, Mass., son of Joseph Noble and Abigail (Dewey) Noble; Joseph Noble, born 1691, Westfield, Mass., son of Matthew Noble and Hannah (Dewey) Noble; Matthew Noble, born 1666, Westfield, Mass., son of Thomas Noble and Hannah (War-

ren) Noble ; Thomas Noble, born 1632, in England, came to Boston, Mass., thence to Springfield, thence to Westfield, where he died.

JOSIAH POMEROY DANA, merchant, Dixon, was born in Albany, New York, January 11, 1819, and is the son of John Wood and Sophia (Pomeroy) Dana. His father was born in Warwick, Massachusetts, in 1788, and was the son of Daniel Dana who was born near Boston in 1754, son of Daniel Dana, sr., of Boston, Mass. The two latter participated in the revolutionary war, and were engaged in the battle of Bunker Hill ; and in after years figured in the public affairs of the commonwealth. The Dana family was formerly represented in this country by three brothers : John, Joseph, Daniel, who came to this country at a very early date, two settling in Massachusetts, and one in Vermont. The family has many relics and curiosities of ancestral honor, which are carefully preserved for future generations. The subject of this sketch was left fatherless at the age of nine years, and was soon after placed under the care of Daniel Dana, his uncle, who was a successful merchant, and under this influence he acquired a knowledge of the business and never departed from the business customs of his fathers, but at the age of twenty-two roamed westward and landed in Chicago in August 1842 ; thence to Southport, Wisconsin, where for fifteen years he was engaged in the mercantile and lumber interests of the city. In 1865 he removed to Dixon, Illinois, and engaged in mercantile pursuits, in which he has continued until the present time. In 1860 Mr. Dana was married to Miss Winfred Nixon, who was residing near Portage city, Wisconsin. Resulting from this union were three children, one son and daughter living, and one daughter of seven years was lost at the great bridge disaster on May 4, 1873, an account of which is given in another place in this book. Miss Agnis Nixon, sister to Mrs. Dana, also perished at the same time. Mr. Dana's mother died in the city of New York in May of the present year, at the advanced age of ninety-one years.

BENJAMIN F. SHAW, editor and publisher, Dixon, was born March 31, 1831, in Tioga county, New York, and is the son of Alanson B. and Philomela (Flower) Shaw, natives of Bradford county, Pennsylvania. His grandparents were born in New England, whose ancestors were from England. His father, Alanson B. Shaw, was the son of Jedediah and Martha (Gore) Shaw. His mother was the daughter of Zephon and Mary (Patrick) Flower. His father died when he was a small boy, and in 1845 he came west and settled in Rock Island in 1847. He came to Dixon in 1851, and assumed the publication of the Dixon "Telegraph," of which he became proprietor. In 1859 he sold the "Telegraph" and bought an interest in the Amboy paper. In 1860 he was elected clerk of the circuit court, and recorder, in which

capacity he served eight years, during which time he continued his connection with the Lee county "Times." In 1870 he took editorial charge of the Dixon "Telegraph," which he has continued up to this time, having been editor of a paper from 1851 to the present writing, excepting four months, during which time he crossed the plains to Pike's Peak. He spent the winter of 1868 in Washington, and during the session of congress reported for the Chicago "Evening Journal"; was connected with the internal revenue service in 1869, and was one of the commissioners appointed by the governor to locate the Elgin state insane asylum. In 1877 he was appointed canal commissioner, in which office he has continued until the present time. In November, 1856, Mr. Shaw was united in marriage to Miss Anna Eustace, daughter of Rev. Thomas Eustace and Fannie (Olmstead) Eustace, of Dixon, from which union resulted the birth of three children: Frederic L., Eustace E. and Lloyd Shaw. Mr. Shaw has always taken an active part in politics as a staunch republican. He had three brothers and four sisters: Alonzo, Ellen E., Phoebe, Valney, Philomela, Jude-diah and Martha.

HON. JOSEPH CRAWFORD, surveyor and banker, Dixon, was born in Columbia county, Pennsylvania, May 19, 1811, and is the son of John and Catharine (Cassedy) Crawford. In 1830 he removed with his parents to Huntington, Pennsylvania, and at the age of twenty he engaged in school teaching, in which profession he continued for four years. On April 4, 1835, he started for Illinois. Passing Chicago and Dixon's Ferry, he stopped at Galena, where he remained but a short time, returning to Dixon's Ferry, and located on a farm south of Grand Detour, in May of the same spring. He also engaged in business as surveyor, which he followed extensively until recent years, and made the original survey of most of the villages on Rock river from Rockford to Rock Island. In 1836 he was appointed deputy county surveyor for northwest Illinois, and was elected county surveyor of Ogle county, which then included Whitesides and Lee, and was elected surveyor of Lee county at the time of its organization in 1840, in which office he served for eighteen years. He served in 1841 as member of the first board of supervisors for the county of Lee, and was elected to represent Lee and Whitesides in the Illinois state legislature in 1849, and reelected to the same in 1853. In 1852 he settled in Dixon, where he still resides. He has dealt extensively in farming lands, and owns about twelve hundred acres of fine farming land in Lee county; one farm of 1,000 acres in one body three miles east of the city of Dixon, and one four miles southwest of the city, embracing 200 acres. Both farms are devoted to grain and stock-growing. He was one of the chartered members of Lee county national bank, which

was organized in 1865, since which time he has sustained the relation of president. He was elected mayor of the city of Dixon in 1873, and reelected the two following terms. On September 16, 18—, Mr. Crawford was united in marriage to Mrs. Huld (Bowman) Culver. Resulting from this union is a son, Joseph Willber Crawford, born August 20, 1859, and still making his father's house his home. Mr. Crawford had two brothers and three sisters. His brother, Dr. John S. Crawford, of Williamsport, Pennsylvania, was killed by a train of cars while crossing the track in his buggy. His brother, Samuel Crawford, resides at Sterling, this state: his two surviving sisters are Sarah and Catharine; the former, Mrs. L. W. Hale, resides in Ohio, and the latter married Mr. John Litle, of Pennsylvania. His parents were born in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, and his forefathers were of Scotch blood. Mrs. Joseph Crawford was the daughter of John and Mary (Bretten) Bowman; the father was born on the banks of the Delaware river in Pennsylvania, and the mother on Staten Island. Her grandfather, Christopher Bowman, was of Germany.

HON. COL. JOHN DEMENT, manufacturer, Dixon, was born April 26, 1804, in Gallatin, the county seat of Sumner county, Tennessee, and is the son of David and Dorcus (Willis) Dement. When thirteen years of age he removed with his parents to Franklin county, Illinois, and located upon a farm, where he made his home until twenty-two years of age, when he was elected to the office of sheriff, which imposed upon him also the duties of collector and treasurer of public funds. He was elected in 1828 to represent Franklin county in the Illinois state legislature, and in 1830 was reelected for a second term, serving four years consecutively as member of that body. Subsequently he was elected by the general assembly as treasurer of the state for three successive terms. During his service in this responsible position he successfully closed up the affairs of the old state bank, and rendered efficient service as an officer in the Black Hawk war, being out in three campaigns. In 1831 he was with Gen. Duncan and Gov. Reynolds as aid, and was one of the witnesses to a treaty with Black Hawk when that chief relinquished all claims to the land lying east of the Mississippi. In the following spring (1832), when Black Hawk in violation of his treaty was marching up Rock river, Col. Dement, then residing at Vandalia, responded to a call from the governor for volunteers to march to the relief of the invaded settlements, and was chosen captain of a volunteer company of the spy battalion and moved immediately to the front. Reaching Dixon, Gen. Whiteside sent Col. Dement with a few men to visit Shabbona, the Pottawatomie chief, who was living twenty-five or thirty miles north of Dixon. He moved out with his men, in all about six, some twelve miles toward Shabbona



grove and encamped for the night. Having no rations only what their guide had provided for himself, they consumed the last of their supplies for their breakfast and renewed the march toward the Indian settlement. Meeting a band of Black Hawk's party they learned the location of that chief and his people, and late in the evening they turned toward camp, riding all night after a fatiguing day. They returned to Dixon on the following day and reported to the commanding general. After Stillman's defeat and Gen. Whiteside's expedition the volunteers were disbanded because of expiration of time, and a new levy of troops were called out by the governor. Col. Dement returned home, and arranging his official matters returned to the volunteer headquarters, where he was elected commander of a battalion of spies, and assuming command he marched in advance of the main army toward Rock river, searching the groves and Bureau woods for Indians who had been committing depredations on the settlers, and reported to Gen. Taylor at Dixon. From this point he soon advanced in search of Black Hawk, leading to the brilliant engagement with that warrior referred to in the chapter on the "Black Hawk war." Black Hawk admitted the loss of seven warriors and two favorite chiefs; says this is the only battle of the year in which he personally took part, and paid a high compliment to the courage and fighting qualities of Col. Dement. In 1836 he was elected representative. To accept this he resigned the state treasurership, turning over his books and accounts, which were audited and approved by the finance committee of the general assembly. In 1837 he was appointed by President Jackson receiver of the land office at Galena, which was removed to Dixon in 1840. He held this position until removed by President Harrison; reinstated by President Polk; was again removed by President Taylor; again reinstated by President Pierce, continuing in position until the land office was removed to Springfield, under the administration of President Buchanan. In 1844 he was chosen presidential elector for James K. Polk. He was a member of three state constitutional conventions of 1847-48, 1862, and 1870, and has been a member of all the conventions called to revise the Illinois constitution since the formation of the state government in 1818. In the first two conventions he served as chairman of the committee of the legislative department, and in the last convention, 1868, he was chairman of the committee on suffrage. The colonel has been elected to the office of mayor of Dixon for four terms, while his name, means and energy have been associated with most of the leading enterprises and public improvements of the city of Dixon. In 1835 he was united in marriage to Miss Maria Louisa Dodge, daughter of Gov. Dodge, of Wisconsin. His eldest son, Henry Dodge Dement, is the present secretary of State for Illinois.

WILLIAM W. HEATON, deceased, late chief justice of the appellate court of the first district and for many years a resident of Dixon, was one of the foremost members of the legal profession in the State of Illinois. He was born in Western, Oneida county, New York, April 15, 1814, and was the son of John and Sarah (Weed) Heaton. He received an academical education, and was for a short time engaged in teaching, but soon relinquished that pursuit for the more congenial profession of the law. He entered upon his studies in 1835 and in 1838 was admitted to the bar at Terre Haute, Indiana, and soon attained a good practice. In 1840 he removed to Dixon and practiced law until 1861, when he was elected judge of the circuit court and occupied that position until 1877, having been twice reelected. The appellate court having been established by act of legislature in 1877, Judge Heaton was elected one of its justices, and on the assembling of the court in October he was chosen chief justice. He died very suddenly in Chicago, on the 26th of December, 1877, being but a few moments before his sudden taking off in apparently his usual good health. Meetings of the bar in the several counties comprised in his district were held, at which resolutions were adopted eulogizing his public and private career and lamenting his untimely demise, which was all the more sad as it occurred only the day before the one appointed for the nuptials of his youngest daughter. Judge Heaton was married three times, his first marriage taking place in Oneida county, New York, the second at Terre Haute, Indiana, and on the 17th of March, 1851, he was united to Mrs. Lucinda McCunsey, of Dixon, who survives him. Four children are still living: Dwight, a lawyer residing in Dixon; Edward, who is living in Nebraska and engaged in farming; Mary, married to Prof. J. F. O. Smith, now of Fort Laramie, Wyoming territory, and Virginia, wife of Chas. H. Gardner, at present a resident of Dakota.

LUKE HITCHCOCK, D.D., presiding elder of the Dixon district of the Methodist Episcopal church, was born in Lebanon, Madison county, New York, on April 13, 1813, and is the son of Julius and Myra (Ingersoll) Hitchcock. He was brought up and educated in his native town, attending the neighboring schools. In the fall of 1834 he united with the Oneida conference of the Methodist Episcopal church. His fields of labor for the next five years were principally in the counties of Onondaga and Tioga, in the State of New York. In August, 1839, he removed to Illinois, and settled at Inlet Grove, Lee county, and during the winter of 1839-40 was in charge of the church at Dixon, being the first regular pastor after its organization. He soon after went to Chicago, and became pastor of the only Methodist Episcopal church then in existence in that city. In the fall of 1842 the society

divided and built the Second church on Canal street. This was the original foundation of what is now known as the Methodist Episcopal Centenary church. Soon after, on account of his health being poor, he returned to Lee county, and being disqualified for preaching he engaged in business pursuits for the next two or three years. He was one of the founders of Lee Center, and held for a time the office of postmaster. He was also one of the original projectors and stockholders of the Lee Center Academy and a member of the first board of trustees. On the passage of the state school law the grounds and building were turned over to the town without compensation, to be used as a free school, provided the system of education should be kept at a certain standard, which trust was accepted by the school directors of the district. Dr. Hitchcock reentered the ministry in 1847, and for thirteen years was presiding elder of the district, which then contained all the territory now embraced in the Rock River conference and a large portion of the present Central Illinois conference. In 1860 he was elected by the general conference of the Methodist Episcopal church an agent of the Western Book Concern. His services in this position were extremely valuable, and gave him a high reputation as a business manager. He filled this position until 1880, having been at five succeeding quadrennial conferences. He has also been elected a member of every general conference since the year 1852. In the fall of 1880 he again became presiding elder of the Dixon district, which position he still fills. He has been honored by the Wesleyan University of Middletown, Connecticut, with the degree of A.M., and with that of D.D. by the Cornell College, of Mount Vernon, Iowa, both being conferred without the knowledge of the recipient. Dr. Hitchcock was married in 1837, to Miss Jane E. Birdsall, of Fabius, New York, who is still living. They have seven children: Birdsall L., residing in Colorado; Elizabeth, who is married to J. E. Wilson, Esq., of Chicago, a member of the well-known firm of Wilson Brothers; Myra, married to Dr. C. H. Fowler, of New York; Mary, married to Charles E. Smith, Esq., of Cincinnati; Ella, married to E. C. Wilson, Esq., of Wilson Brothers, Chicago; Adelaide, married to Archer Brown, Esq., of Cincinnati, and Charles A., engaged in business in Chicago. Dr. Hitchcock has an unblemished record, during nearly half a century of service, as a spotless man, intelligent patriot, and devout christian.

WILLIAM UHL, dealer in agricultural implements, Dixon, was born in Alleghany county, Maryland, 1819, and is the son of Daniel and Mary (Lind) Uhl. He was educated in Gettysburg College, Pennsylvania, graduating about 1845. He entered the ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran church, and in 1851 removed to Peru, Illinois, remaining in that pastorate until 1853, when he removed to Dixon,

where he organized a church of the denomination to which he belonged, of which he was the pastor for about two years, being at the same time engaged in farming. In 1860 he resigned his pastoral charge on account of ill health, and having purchased the "Farmers' Mill" was engaged in the milling business until 1867, when he returned to farming. In February, 1851, he purchased the agricultural implement business from the Farmers' Association, placing his son, E. C. Uhl, in charge as manager. He was a charter member of both the banks located at Dixon, and has been an officer and director of each at various times since their organization. Mr. Uhl was married in 1840, at Wellersburg, Pennsylvania, to Miss Lucinda Cook, and has four children. The eldest is Jonathan, born in 1841, and now residing in Page county, Iowa, engaged in stock farming; E. C., who was born in 1844, and is a resident of Dixon; Ellen, born in 1842, and married to J. H. W. Bennett, and Josie E., born in 1847, and married to Z. D. Mathuss. Both daughters now reside at Shenandoah, Page county, Iowa, where their husbands are engaged in business. E. C. Uhl, who manages the business at Dixon, was born at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, and accompanied his father during the various removals before mentioned. He was married in 1874 to Miss Virginia Roe, daughter of Col. E. R. Roe, of Springfield, Illinois. Mr. William Uhl has been a life-long democrat, while his son is a firm supporter of the principles and policy of the republican party.

DAVID WELTY, Dixon, was born in Williamsville, Erie county, New York, September 30, 1811. His parents were Jacob and Betsy (Horshey) Welty. His parents removed to Buffalo when he was twelve years of age, and he acquired the greater part of his education at that place. When he became of age he engaged in the dry-goods business, which he followed for several years. At the time of the patriot war in Canada Mr. Welty served as aid on the staff of Gen. Burt. His health being in a very precarious condition he removed to Dixon, in 1838, and has since resided in Lee county, part of the time in the city, and the remainder has been spent on his farm lying near Dixon. He was elected probate judge in 1854, and served two terms of four years each, and also held the office of drainage commissioner for several years. Judge Welty was married at Buffalo, New York, on October 23, 1834, to Miss Seraphina Scott, daughter of John and Brilliant (Holmes) Scott, and a native of Mayville, Chautauqua county, New York, who is still living, and they have nine surviving children: Emily, who married Leander Devine, December 26, 1866, and is residing at Dixon; Ellen, married to E. K. Sibley, December 7, 1870, and living in St. Louis; John, employed in pension office at Washington, D. C.; Maxwell A., who resides in St. Louis; Adeline,



Anna, Charles, William and George, all of whom are at present living in Dixon.

CHARLES W. LATIMER, marble dealer, Dixon, was born in Sodus, Wayne county, New York, September 5, 1845, and is the son of Henry M. and Ann E. (Williams) Latimer. His parents removed to Lyons, New York, during his infancy, and he acquired his education at the Lyons union school. After leaving school he worked for two years at the trade of marble cutting. He enlisted, December 1863, in the 9th New York heavy artillery, and serving through the remainder of the war was mustered out September 29, 1865. On returning home he worked at his trade at Albion, New York, and Erie, Pennsylvania, and in June, 1867, entered the marble works of Day & Ashcraft, at Norwich, New York, with whom he remained until 1874, when he removed to Dixon, and in company with M. L. Young purchased the marble works of J. Y. Westervelt, carrying on the business under the firm name of Latimer & Young. June 1, 1876, he purchased the interest of Mr. Young, and with the exception of a few months has since conducted the business solely on his own behalf. Mr. Latimer was married January 8, 1873, to Miss Ella Backus, of Palmyra, New York, who died September 7, 1876. They had only two children, the eldest of whom died in November 1875, and the second soon after birth. Mr. Latimer ranks high in the Masonic fraternity, being at present recorder of the Dixon Commandery, K.T. He is also superintendent of Oakwood cemetery, and the neat and beautiful appearance of this "city of the dead" speaks well for his watchful management. A visit to the works of Mr. Latimer will prove that in the quality of his work, its durability, and in all other respects, he ranks head and shoulders over the establishments of a similar character in far larger cities, and his integrity and urbanity is daily extending the already large circle of his friends.

THOMAS P. HODNETT, pastor of the Catholic church, Dixon, was born in Glin, county Limerick, Ireland, February 2, 1845, and is the son of Thomas P. and Elizabeth (Hanlon) Hodnett. At the age of seventeen he left his native town and entered the Jesuit college at Limerick, where he remained for four years, and was for one year at the Catholic university of Ennis, county Clare. He then passed his examination at Dublin, after which he entered the Irish college at Paris, France. He remained there for three years, and then came to America, and after passing eight months at St. Mary's of the Lake seminary, he entered St. Francis seminary, and was ordained September 30, 1866, and was appointed assistant to Right Rev. John Henry Morris at Watertown, Wisconsin, where he remained a year, when he was transferred to the pastoral charge of Potosi, Wisconsin, and afterward to Lancaster,



Sincerely yours  
John Dement



Wisconsin, and several other pastorates. In 1871 was appointed by Bishop Foley, pastor at Dixon, and assumed charge in January 1875. He has a school in connection with his church under the charge of four sisters belonging to the order of St. Dominic, with an average attendance of 150 pupils. The grades are arranged similarly to those of the city schools, and a public examination is held each year, conducted by prominent and influential citizens of Dixon. The cost of the present church and the ground was about \$30,000, and the value of the property belonging to the church in the city is estimated at \$40,000. The congregation consists of about 175 families, and the church has a seating capacity of 650 persons. There are also affiliated missions at Harmon and Ashton, in Lee county. The value of the property belonging to the former is estimated at \$7,500, and to the latter at \$5,000. Father Hodnett has an able assistant in the Rev. James F. Clancy, who was appointed associate pastor at Dixon early in 1879.

GEORGE W. J. BROWN, physician, Dixon, was born in Greensboro, Pennsylvania, in 1846, and is the son of John C. and Elizabeth (Hopton) Brown. His father was a glass manufacturer and farmer. Both parents are still living on a farm near Greensboro. He was brought up and received his early education at the public and select schools of the vicinity, and afterward pursued a course of study at the Greene academy. He then taught school for several terms, the first one when only fifteen years of age. In 1865 begun the study of medicine with Dr. G. W. John, of Stewartstown, Virginia, reading with him until the fall of 1867, when he went to Philadelphia and began a regular course of medical study at the Pennsylvania and Blockney hospitals and university, graduating in the spring of 1869. He then took charge of his preceptor's practice at Stewartstown, Virginia, and remained a year. In 1870 he removed to Meyersdale, Pennsylvania, and continued the practice of medicine and surgery there until 1877, when he sold out his good will to Dr. J. Ernest Meiers, of Washington, D.C., and removed to Illinois. He matriculated at the Hahnemann Medical College, in Chicago, taking a course and graduating from the above named college in the spring of 1878. In the same year he succeeded to the practice of Dr. J. A. Steele, of Dixon, of the firm of Steele & Blackman, and remained a partner of Dr. Blackman for two years. In 1880 he opened an office alone in front rooms over Petersberger's clothing store on Main street, where he continues to practice his profession. Dr. Brown was married in 1872, to Miss Maggie M. Miller, of Meyersdale, Pennsylvania, and has two children, Charles L., aged seven years, and Edna Florence, aged four years. Dr. Brown is a republican and a member of the Methodist Episcopal church.

WILLIAM H. GODFREY, Dixon, was born in western New York in



1826, and is the son of Charles and Harriet (Horton) Godfrey. He received his education at Geneva, New York, where he resided until he was twenty-four years of age. His health failing he removed to Gloucester, Virginia, where he purchased a plantation and engaged in farming for the space of five years, after which he came to Dixon and purchased the flouring-mill then owned and operated by Brooks & Daly. In the following year he purchased a half interest in the water-power, which he still retains. He soon after built a second mill, which was subsequently burned and never rebuilt. In 1860 he sold a half interest in the mill to John Becker, and shortly afterward sold the remaining interest to Nathan Underwood. Since that time Mr. Godfrey has been principally engaged in looking after his real-estate interests in Dixon and vicinity, he being a large land owner. Mr. Godfrey was married at Geneva, New York, in 1849, to Miss Catharine J. Dugan, a native of New York city, but at that time a resident of Geneva. They have four children. Politically Mr. Godfrey's affiliations are democratic, and he is a member of the Presbyterian church.

OLIVER EVERETT, physician, Dixon, was born September 12, 1811, at Worthington, Massachusetts. His parents were James and Phebe (Clark) Everett. When he was eight years of age his father's family removed to Cummington, Massachusetts, where he attended school for some years, after which he entered Berkshire medical school, connected with Williams College, at Williamstown, Massachusetts, graduating in 1836. Having determined to make his home in the then distant State of Illinois, in September, 1836, he arrived at Dixon, where he decided to locate. He at once engaged in the practice of his profession, which he has since continued uninterruptedly and with eminent success. At the time of his arrival there was no medical practitioner at Dixon, though a Dr. Forrest, a native of Kentucky, had made that point his headquarters for about a year, but had gone away a short time prior to Dr. Everett's arrival, and the latter is not only the first physician who permanently located in Dixon, but has also resided there for a longer continuous period than any person now living. Dr. Everett was elected mayor of Dixon in 1863, and served his fellow-citizens in that capacity to the satisfaction of all. He took considerable interest in the establishment of the northern insane asylum located at Elgin, and was a member of the first board of trustees of that institution, serving from 1869 to 1873. The doctor takes a great interest in scientific matters generally, and has a remarkably fine collection of specimens in various departments of natural history. Politically he has been a firm supporter of the principles of the republican party, from its organization. Dr. Everett was first married in 1838, to Miss Emily Everett, at Princeton, Illinois. Her death occurred a

few years later. He was again married in 1846, to Miss Bessie Law, of Dixon, who died May 4, 1881. Three children resulted from this union: Dr. Wm. L. Everett, who died in October 1873, aged twenty-four years; Dr. J. M. Everett, who is now a partner with his father in the practice of medicine, and a daughter, who is the wife of W. N. Johnson, Esq., a well known citizen of Dixon.

WALTER McL. WADSWORTH, undertaker, Dixon, was born in Hartford, Connecticut, in 1811, and is the son of Richard and Ann (McLean) Wadsworth. His parents removed to Canandaigua, New York, in 1812, where they resided about ten years, when they went to Buffalo, New York, and here the subject of our sketch received his education. After leaving school he learned the cabinet-making trade, which he followed for several years. When about thirty-five years of age Mr. Wadsworth removed to Three Rivers, Michigan, and carried on the furniture business for two years after which he returned to Livonia, New York. He resided there about four years, when he removed to Rochester, New York, and after a two years' residence in that city came west and located at Dixon in 1854, when he engaged in furniture business, which he followed until 1861, when he sold out and was appointed United States internal revenue collector for the district, which position he occupied for eight years. His health being impaired by being so closely confined to office work, he resigned the position of collector and for three years acted as agent for Fairbanks' scales. He then became engaged in the undertaking business, which he still conducts. Mr. Wadsworth was married in 1834, to Miss Emily Benjamin, at Brantford, Canada. Mr. and Mrs. Wadsworth, after nearly half a century of wedded life, vie in energy and activity with their neighbors of a later generation. They have one child, Mrs. Anna Wadsworth Worthington, who was born at Livonia, New York, and she also has one child, Walter E. Worthington, who was born November 13, 1866. Mr. Wadsworth has always been a republican, and he and his family are members of the Methodist Episcopal church.

JAMES B. POMEROY, merchant, Dixon, was born in Cuyahoga county, Ohio, in 1840. His parents were Ebenezer and Mary A. (Bronson) Pomeroy. Soon after his birth his parents removed to Kenosha, Wisconsin, where they resided until the death of his father in 1876, his mother having died in 1867. He was educated at Kenosha, and when twenty years of age removed to Dixon and engaged in the fruit business, which he continued until 1876, and then went into the grocery trade. At the organization of the Dixon national bank in 1871 Mr. Pomeroy was elected a director by the stockholders and was subsequently elected vice-president by the board of directors, which position he still holds. He is also one of the most prominent members

of the Masonic fraternity, being at present high priest of the chapter of Royal Arch Masons, and eminent commander of Knights Templar. Mr. Pomeroy is an active republican, a member of the Episcopal church, and as yet has not assumed the duties and responsibilities of the married state.

OSCAR F. AYRES, insurance agent, Dixon, was born in 1809, in Orange county, New York, and is the son of Benjamin F. and Christiana (Minthorn) Ayres, and is of Scotch and German ancestry. His father was a farmer and his son assisted him on the farm and attended the schools in the vicinity until he reached his twenty-first year, when he removed to Albany, New York, and followed the business of a merchant tailor. In 1831 he went to Fabius, Onondaga county, New York, conducting the same business. In 1839 removed to Dixon, and in 1844 engaged in the dry-goods trade and continued in it for thirty years. Before coming to Dixon he was a licensed minister of the Methodist Episcopal church. He received his first ordination about 1845, and his ordination as elder two or three years after. During all the years since that time he has filled the pulpit at various places near to Dixon, officiated at funerals and marriages, and for many years was called upon to fill any vacancy occurring in neighboring localities. For the past seven years Mr. Ayres has been engaged in the fire insurance business, and in 1871 made a trip to the Pacific coast for the purpose of placing stock for the Atlantic and Pacific Telegraph Company, which he succeeded in doing. Mr. Ayres was married in 1831, to Miss Hannah M. Birdsall, who is still living. They have two sons and four daughters, and on the 1st of March, 1881, Mr. and Mrs. Ayres celebrated their golden wedding, surrounded by their children and grandchildren.

MARK DORNAN, farmer, Dixon, was born in Ireland, in 1816. His parents were Mark and Alice (Carey) Dornan. In 1836 Mr. Dornan came to America, and after a short stay in the east came to Lee county in 1837, and located upon land in Dixon township, which still forms a portion of his present farm. He has now 240 acres of productive and valuable land, which he leaves to the general care and management of his son James. Mr. Dornan was married in 1843, to Miss Alice Craycraft, who died in July 1880, and there are five children living: James, John and Susanna, who reside with their father, and Francis and Mark, who reside upon their father's farm, but have homes of their own, both being married.

JOHN G. FLECK, farmer, Dixon, was born in Huntington county, Pennsylvania, in 1816, and is the son of Henry and Catherine (Raney) Fleck. His father was a farmer, and after leaving school Mr. Fleck followed the same occupation in Huntington county, until

he arrived at the age of forty years, when he came west and located upon his present farm in Dixon township, Lee county, Illinois. He has 80 acres of fine land under a high state of cultivation. Mr. Fleck was married in February 1839, to Miss Nancy Buck, in Pennsylvania. She was a daughter of Abram Buck, Esq., who came west and settled in Ogle county in 1848. A family of six children was the result of this union, four of whom are still living: Sarah, born in 1846, married Ira S. Fleck, and is now living at Bunker Hill, Kansas; Horace, born in 1853, is now a member of the firm of Fleck & Robinson, at Dixon; Mary and Ella M., both of whom reside with their parents; Alice, born in 1844 and died in 1865; Alma J., born in 1864 and died June 13, 1881. The recent death of their youngest daughter, just budding into womanhood, has inflicted a wound upon the hearts of the bereaved parents which only those who have suffered a similar loss can estimate. Mr. Fleck is independent in politics, though he generally acts with the republicans, and is a member of the Evangelical Lutheran church.

WILLIAM W. WATERS, pump manufacturer, Dixon, was born in 1851, at Gloversville, New York, and is the son of George and Eliza (Winter) Waters. His father followed the business of a tanner and glover, and in 1855 removed to Illinois and settled at Ashton, Lee county, since which time he has principally been engaged in farming. W. W. Waters was brought up and educated at Ashton, and left home in November, 1871, going to Amboy to learn the cabinet-making trade. He remained there for three years and a half, after which he removed to Rock Falls, Whitesides county, where he was employed by the Keystone Burial Case Company for a year and a half. He then came to Dixon and engaged in his present business in connection with two partners under the title of the Dixon Pump Company. The business is now carried on by Mr. Waters and Mr. George W. Knox, who lately purchased the interest of Mr. Louis Merriman. Mr. Waters was married on September 9, 1879, to Miss Ida M. Mills, daughter of Clinton D. and Mary (Stanley) Mills, of Ashton. Mr. Waters is a republican, and a member of the Presbyterian church.

ORVILLE B. BLACKMAN, physician, Dixon, was born in Hillsboro, Illinois, on August 30, 1851, and is the son of George and Hannah J. (Paisley) Blackman. His father was a carriage manufacturer, and died at Hillsboro in 1858. His mother is still living and resides at Hillsboro. During his earlier years Dr. Blackman attended the academy in his native place, but when eleven years of age went to work in a woolen factory, where he continued for six years. He then reëntered school, where he continued for three years, and at the same time commenced the study of medicine, reading with Dr. Fields, of Hillsboro.



He next taught school for about a year at Irving, Illinois, after which he went to Chicago and attended a course of lectures at Hahnemann Medical College, graduating March 3, 1873. Removed to Dixon in May 1873, and entered upon the practice of his profession. After a year he formed a partnership with Dr. J. A. Steele, which continued for four years and a half, until the removal of Dr. Steele, after which he formed a partnership with Dr. G. W. I. Brown, which lasted for two years, and was then dissolved, since which time he has practiced alone. Dr. Blackburn was united in marriage to Miss Lucretia S. Cress, of Hillsboro, on March 3, 1874, and has three children: Gertie, aged six; George, aged four; Cress, aged three. Dr. Blackburn is a thorough republican, and has been a member of the Evangelical Lutheran church for over thirteen years.

JAMES ANDREW HAWLEY, county clerk and banker, Dixon, is a native of New York, being born in Monroe county, that state, on August 20, 1830, and is the son of James and Sarah (Stratton) Hawley. His father was born in Connecticut, in 1791, and was the son of Stephen Hawley, of English ancestors. During the acquirement of his education, when a youth, he attended the Monroe Academy, and the Genesee Wesleyan Seminary. From 1848 to 1851 he devoted his time to school teaching, after which he accepted a clerkship in the publishing house of Wanzear, Beardsley & Co., remaining with that firm until 1855, when he became general agent for Messrs. A. S. Barnes & Co., and also Ivison, Plimney & Co., book publishers of New York city. During this time he became familiar with the west, and traveled through Illinois looking after the interests of the above firms. In 1858 he settled in Dixon and opened a book store, which he disposed of in 1861. He officiated for two years as commissioner of public schools. He has filled the office of county clerk for Lee county for the last twenty years, being successively reelected from his first election in 1861. He served as school director for a period of ten years, being first elected in 1863; and was for a number of years the president of that board. For several years he was a member of the board of directors of the Lee county national bank of Dixon, prior to 1878, when he became connected with the Dixon national bank, acting as president until April 24, when he was elected cashier, which responsible relation he still holds. He is well known as a prominent Mason, and has not only ascended through its sublime mysteries, but has occupied the highest official positions in the state departments of this ancient order. In 1871 he was elected Grand High Priest of the Royal Arch Chapter of the state; in 1873 and 1874 he was Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of the State of Illinois, and in 1874 was Grand Commander of Knights Templar for said state. On June 20, 1855, Mr. Hawley was united in marriage to Miss

Mary A. Gardner, daughter of Dr. Charles and Mary Gardner, then of Dixon, Illinois. A family of five children resulted from the above marriage union, two daughters and three sons: Mary Augusta, Charles Gardner, Lloyd Robinson, George William and Laura S. Charles G. has been deputy county clerk of Lee county since January 1878. He was born May 1, 1858, in the city of Dixon. In the fall of 1874 he entered college at Racine, Wisconsin, and in the winter of 1876 he entered Ann Arbor state university, Michigan. On returning home from the last-mentioned school he entered the county clerk's office and was subsequently appointed deputy as above stated.

WEBSTER W. WYNN, M.D., physician, Dixon, was born in Monroe county, New York, August 22, 1818. His parents were John and Amanda (Grunddike) Wynn. He spent his early life on a farm, and commenced teaching school at the early age of sixteen, which profession he followed for several years, devoting his spare time to the study of scientific branches preparatory to a medical course. Upon the organization of Genesee College, New York, he entered the first literary class formed, and remained in this school two years, when he entered the Buffalo Medical College, at Buffalo, New York, graduating, after a three years' course, in the winter of 1855-6. After practicing in the above city for a short time he removed to Dixon, Illinois, where he formed a partnership with Dr. N. W. Abbott, who in the following year removed to Chicago. Following the dissolution of this partnership Dr. Wynn continued the practice alone until January 1865, when he formed a partnership with Henry E. Pain, M.D., who had recently removed from the east and settled in Dixon, which genial association has continued until the present time. He was appointed surgeon at the military post at Dixon during the war of the rebellion. On July 21, 1859, the doctor was united in marriage to Miss Frances E. Latham, daughter of George and Amanda E. Latham, formerly of Chenango county, New York, from which union resulted two children, George Wesley and Frankie, who died respectively October 23 and 31, 1862, and were followed by the mother to her final resting-place on December 29 of the same year. On September 25, 1866, the doctor was united in marriage to Miss Georgiana McKenney, of Dixon. This union was blessed with the birth of a son, Hubart W., September 26, 1867, (deceased); Mary Frances, October 17, 1869, and Harriet, March 6, 1871.

CHARLES F. EMERSON, merchant, Dixon, was born in Castine, Maine, in 1828, and is the son of Henry and Nancy (Hutchings) Emerson. His father was a farmer and blacksmith, and resided in Castine up to the time of his death. Mr. Emerson was brought up and educated in his native town, and at the age of twenty went to sea in a vessel en-

gaged in the coasting and West India trade. He followed this occupation until his twenty-seventh year, when he came west and located on a farm in South Dixon township. After farming nearly seven years, removed to Dixon, but did not engage in business until after the beginning of the late war, when he went south and served the government in different capacities for several years. He returned to Dixon in 1865, and a year later bought an interest in the lumber business of S. K. Upham, where he continued until 1875. Since then he has not been engaged in active business until recently, having again gone into the lumber trade in company with Mr. George D. Laing. Mr. Emerson was married at Boston, Massachusetts, in December 1855, to Miss Hannah E. Avery, daughter of John A. and Eliza Avery. Mr. Emerson is a member of the republican party, and served as alderman of his ward from 1872 to 1874 inclusive.

CYRUS A. DAVIS, dealer in lumber, Dixon, was born in New Ipswich, New Hampshire, June 11, 1824, and is the son of Cyrus and Mary (Appleton) Davis, both of whom were born in the year 1800, and were of English ancestry. His parents removed to the west when he was about fifteen years of age, and located near Amboy, where his father engaged in farming. Mr. Davis followed farming for about fourteen years, when he returned to Massachusetts. He was soon after elected a member of the Massachusetts legislature, and among his colleagues at this time were John A. Andrew, afterward known as the great war governor Caleb Cushing, and many others who have since figured prominently in state and national politics. In September, 1858, he returned west to look after his interests in Lee county, and soon after engaged in the furniture business at Dixon, which he carried on for nearly two years, and then conducted the book and stationery business for about the same length of time. For the past eleven years he has been dealing in coal and lumber, which business he still carries on. Mr. Davis was married in 1852, to Miss Sarah J. Holt, of Ashby, Massachusetts, and they have but one child, a daughter, born August 23, 1853, and married July 1, 1873, to S. S. Dodge, of Dixon. Mrs. Dodge was the first child born in the town of Amboy after its being laid out by the Illinois Central Railroad Company. Politically Mr. Davis is an ardent republican and his family are members of the Methodist Episcopal church.

HORACE PRESTON, farmer, Dixon, was born in 1819, at New Ipswich, New Hampshire, and is the son of Jeremiah and Anna (Proctor) Preston. His father being a farmer, Horace spent his earlier life in working upon the farm and attending the neighboring schools. In 1839 he came west and located in Dixon, where he opened a blacksmith shop, he being the second person to open a shop of this kind in Dixon.

John Wilson was the first to engage in that business, but before the arrival of Mr. Preston he had given up his shop and was then building a hotel. Mr. Preston carried on blacksmithing for fourteen years, when he sold his shop and bought a farm near Dixon. After remaining on this place five years, he sold a portion and purchased another farm near Lee Center, to which he removed. About nine o'clock in the evening, June 3, 1859, Mr. Preston and his family having just retired, they were startled by a peculiar roaring sound similar to that caused by a conflagration. Thinking the house in flames, Mr. Preston hurried to an adjoining room occupied by his two little daughters, and seizing one under each arm was just turning to escape when the whole roof of the house was torn off and Mr. Preston and his children were carried through the air a distance of eighty or ninety yards, where they landed unhurt, with the exception of a few bruises. Mrs. Preston, who had started downstairs carrying her infant, also escaped with her life, but the child was killed. The next morning dawned upon a scene of utter destruction. Everything in the track of the tornado had been completely demolished. Houses, barns and fences were swept away, crops were ruined, and trees were blown down. The same spot which the previous evening had been a prosperous and comfortable home was now a scene of desolation and ruin. A day or two after the passage of the cyclone Mr. Preston hauled seventy-five loads of debris from a small portion of his farm, consisting of not more than ten or fifteen acres. In the following year Mr. Preston sold this farm and again engaged in farming near Dixon, which he continued until the spring of 1880, when he removed into the city. Mr. Preston was married at Dixon in 1849, to Miss Jane Wood, and the result of this union has been three children, the eldest of whom is Ella, who is married and resides in Massachusetts; Jennie who is married to William Packard, and residing in Dixon, and Clara who resides with her parents.

JACOB BRUBAKER, jr., merchant, Dixon, is a native of Pennsylvania, and was born in March 1844. His parents were Jacob and Lydia (Whitmen) Brubaker, who removed to Ogle county, Illinois, in 1848, where his father engaged in farming. In 1852 the family removed to Dixon, but in 1855 they returned to Ogle county. Mr. Brubaker left home in 1859, and went to Polo, Illinois, where he became a clerk in a dry-goods store, remaining there until September 1864, when he enlisted in the 92d Ill. Mounted Vols. He accompanied Sherman's army on their march to the sea, and after the surrender of Johnston was mustered out of service in June 1865. He then returned to Polo, but in 1867 removed to Dixon, where he followed his former occupation until 1873, when he was employed by Becker & Underwood, with whom he remained until the spring of



1880. He soon after associated himself with Capt. Dysart in the flour jobbing and grain business, which he still carries on. In December, 1865, Mr. Brubaker was married to Miss Sarah A., daughter of Isaiah and Clarissa Wilcox, of Buffalo Grove, who were among the first settlers in that locality. Mr. Brubaker has three children living: Nellie, aged fifteen; George, aged eleven, and Sadie, aged three. Mr. Brubaker is a republican and a member of the Methodist Episcopal church.

SYLVANUS K. UPHAM, retired merchant, Dixon, is a native of Castine, Maine, where he was born in 1811. His parents were Sylvanus and Mary (Avery) Upham. He is a descendant of old Puritan stock, the first Upham having come to America in 1635, and settled in Massachusetts, where the family remained until about the beginning of the present century, when Mr. Upham's father removed to Maine, where he died in 1832. Mr. Upham attended school until his fifteenth year, when he went to sea, which vocation he followed for two years, when he settled at Salem, Massachusetts, and learned the tanning trade. After remaining there about four years he returned to Castine, where for ten years he carried on a tannery. In 1844 he removed to Boston and engaged in the grocery business, but, catching the gold-fever in 1849, he went to California, remaining there for two years, when he returned to Massachusetts. In November, 1852, he removed to Dixon and engaged at once in the lumber business, which he carried on until 1875, since which time he has not been engaged in active business. Mr. Upham was married in January 1839, to Miss Mary A. Brooks, of Castine, who died at Dixon, December 30, 1870. They had four children, three of whom survive, the eldest being Margaret B., born in November 1839, now the widow of Charles Wright, Esq. Mrs. Wright is at present living in Paris, and is an authoress of considerable distinction. Lieut. Frank Upham, born in 1841, is an officer in the 1st U. S. Cav., at present stationed at Fort Walla Walla, Washington Territory; Charles C., born in 1852, is residing in Mexico, as resident engineer of the Mexican Central railroad. Annie G., born in 1845, was married in 1866, to Edward B. Utley, Dixon, and died June 12, 1867. Mr. Upham was married a second time in 1872, to Mrs. Angelina Sewell, relict of the Rev. Daniel Sewell, of Winthrop, Maine, who died in 1866. Way back two centuries and a half ago we find the ancient records speaking in high terms of the services of Lieut. Phineas Upham, who served with distinction in the long and bloody contest waged between the sturdy settlers of Massachusetts and the savage hordes of King Phillip, and who finally perished from wounds sustained at the hands of the treacherous foe.

NICHOLAS PLEIN, brewer, Dixon, was born in Frier, Germany, November 8, 1848, and is the son of John and Margaret (Plein) Plein.

He received his education at the schools of his native town, and when eighteen years of age came to America and settled in Dixon, where he worked several months for Valentine Thoman. He then removed to Chicago, where he remained a short time and then returned to Dixon, where he again entered into the employ of Mr. Thoman. After the death of the latter, which occurred in June 1873, he purchased the property and business which he still carries on. Mr. Plein was married in 1873, to Mrs. Christina (Sold) Thoman, a daughter of Louis and Christina (Keller) Sold. She was born in France in 1846, and has resided in Dixon since 1854. There are six children: Charles, aged seventeen; Constant, aged thirteen; Joseph, aged eleven; Amelia, aged nine; Kitty, aged five, and Louis, aged one.

SAMUEL SHAW, farmer, Dixon, was born in Scotland, October 1803, and is the son of James and Sydney (Forsythe) Shaw. His father was the owner of a large stock farm near Glasgow, but removed to the north of Ireland when Samuel was about seven years of age, where the latter was brought up and educated. When eighteen years of age he came to America, and settled at Pittsburg, Pennsylvania. After remaining there three years he returned to Ireland, where he engaged in farming for several years. He again came to America, and in 1833 located in Cass county, Illinois, where he resided until 1854, when he removed to Palmyra township, where he remained until 1875. Since that time he has been a resident of the city of Dixon, engaged in no active business, but owning about 600 acres of good farming land in the vicinity of the city. Mr. Shaw was married in 1827, to Miss Mary Campbell, a native of Scotland, and who, after the lapse of more than half a century, still remains the sharer of his joys and sorrows. They have four sons and three daughters surviving, the eldest of whom is James, born in 1833, and now a leading attorney of Mount Carroll, Illinois. William, born 1835, has a large stock farm in Missouri. Archibald, born in 1837, is farming in Kansas. Samuel, born in 1844, is practicing law at Kansas city, Missouri. Three daughters, Elizabeth, Mary and Cathrine, reside in Dixon with their parents. One son, Timothy, born in 1839, was a student at Illinois College at the outbreak of the war, and enlisted at the first call for troops in April 1861, and died at St. Louis in August 1861, from disease contracted in the service. Mr. Shaw is a firm believer in the republican party and its principles, and attends the Presbyterian church.

HON. HENRY D. DEMENT, Secretary of State for Illinois, was born at Galena, Illinois, in 1840, and is the son of Col. John and Mary L. (Dodge) Dement, and is the grandson on his mother's side of General Dodge, the first governor of Wisconsin. At the age of five years he removed with his parents from Galena to Dixon, where he

attended school for several years, and finishing the course at Mount Morris Seminary, at Mount Morris, Ogle county, Illinois. At the age of twenty years he enlisted in the service of his country, going into the 13th Ill. Inf. in October 1861. On the organization of the companies he was elected a second lieutenant, and within a short period was promoted to first lieutenant, and captain, receiving a complimentary commission for the latter position from Gov. Yates, for gallantry at Arkansas Post and Chickasaw Bayou. He served with Gen. Curtis in all his campaigns west of the Mississippi, and was in the 15th Army Corps during the siege of Vicksburg. Soon after the fall of the latter place he resigned his command and returned home. Soon afterward he engaged in the manufacture of plows etc. at Dixon, in connection with W. M. Todd, but sold out to F. K. Orvis & Co. in 1870. Shortly afterward he engaged in the manufacture of flax bagging for covering cotton bales, which he carried on until 1880, when he was burned out in the large fire that occurred in the spring of that year. Capt. Dement was elected to the lower house of the Illinois legislature in November 1872, and reelected in 1874, and at the expiration of that term was elected to the senate from the counties of Lee and Ogle, and served four years. In the spring of 1880 he was nominated by the republican state convention as their candidate for the position of secretary of state, and elected in the following November by upward of 40,000 majority. He was married October 20, 1864, to Miss Mary F. Williams, daughter of Hon. Hezekiah Williams, of Castine, Maine, and the result of this union has been three daughters: Gertrude M., aged fifteen years, Lucia W., aged thirteen years, and Nonie E., aged five years. Capt. Dement and his wife are members of the Presbyterian church.

THOMAS McCUNE, farmer, Dixon, was born in Venango county, Pennsylvania, in 1831, and is the son of William and Keziah (Paxton) McCune. His father was a farmer, and is still living in Pennsylvania. Mr. McCune was brought up and educated in Venango county, and after his arrival at manhood engaged in farming. In 1872 he came west and located on his present farm in Dixon township, which consists of 183 acres of valuable land with large and commodious buildings in first-class order. He was married June 3, 1858, to Miss Lydia J. Williams, a resident of Venango county, Pennsylvania. They have five children as follows: Miles, aged twenty-three; Irvin, aged twenty-one; Sarah J., aged eighteen; Ellen, aged thirteen; and Maud, aged nine years; all of whom reside at home. Mr. McCune is a democrat in his political affiliations.

JOSEPH B. BROOKS, deceased, for ten years a prominent citizen of Dixon, was born at Castine, Maine, on August 15, 1820, and is the



son of Barker and Margaret (Perkins) Brooks. He left home and went to Boston about 1843, where he engaged in the shipchandlery business in connection with Mr. S. K. Upham. In 1845 he returned to Dixon and opened a general merchandise store, and for the next ten years did the largest business of any merchant in this section. He was one of the original projectors as well as one of the largest owners in the water-power at Dixon, and put up the first machinery after the construction of the dam for the purpose of running the saw-mill. During his entire career he was one of the most active and energetic leaders in any enterprise that promised to promote the interests of Dixon, but died on December 20, 1855, in the very prime of life. He was married in Dixon, January 6, 1847, to Miss Ophelia A. Loveland, of New York, by whom he had two children, Henry J. and Margaret A., both of whom still reside in Dixon. His son, Dr. H. J. Brooks, was born in Dixon, October 9, 1850, where he received his earlier education. After leaving school he commenced reading medicine with Dr. J. A. Steele, and then entered the medical department of the Northwestern University of Chicago, graduating in 1874. He then took a course of lectures and a diploma at the Long Island College Hospital at Brooklyn, New York, and also at Bellevue Medical College, New York. He then returned to Illinois, and was appointed assistant physician at the Northern Insane Asylum, where he remained some three years, serving with great credit to himself as shown by the report of the superintendent, Dr. Kilbourn. Resigning this position in January, 1876, he went to Europe with a view of remaining there a couple of years, but was recalled in a few months by a dangerous accident happening to his mother. Early in 1879 he entered upon the active practice of his profession at Dixon, which he still carries on. Dr. Brooks was married June 18, 1879, to Miss Clara V. Daggett, a resident of Elgin. Politically the doctor acts with the republican party, and is a member of the Presbyterian church.

EZRA EMMERT, inventor, Dixon, was born in Washington county, Maryland, July 6, 1826, and is the son of Joseph and Catharine (Evey) Emmert. His father was a farmer, and Ezra was brought up on the farm and attended school in the vicinity. When nineteen years of age he came west and located in China township in Lee county, where he carried on a farm for about eight years. During this time he commenced experimenting on various improvements in farm machinery. Among his more important inventions was a combined seeder and cultivator, now manufactured at Dixon by the Orvis Plow Company, and from which he realized a considerable amount of money. He was also the original inventor of what is known as the Marsh harvester, his patent dating from 1857. He has now under



process of completion several important improvements in this machine. He also patented a corn-planter, rotary seed-drill, etc. Mr. Emmert moved into Dixon in November 1880, where he has since resided. He was married at Franklin Grove in 1850, to Miss Sarah A. New-comer, who died November 18, 1880. There are two children living: Mary C., married to T. J. Miller, of Dixon, and Eleanor A., aged twenty-one years, and residing in Dixon. In politics Mr. Emmert is an adherent of the republican party.

D. B. AYRES, harness-maker, Dixon, was born in Albany, New York, April 29, 1833, and is the son of Oscar F. and Hannah M. (Birdsall) Ayres. His parents removed to Lee county in 1839, where he was brought up and educated, and after leaving school, when sixteen years of age, he entered the shop of H. O. Kelsey for the purpose of learning the harness-making trade, which he followed for several years. He then became a clerk for the dry-goods firm of Wood & Boardman, and afterward engaged in the same capacity for his father for about two years, when he became a partner in the dry-goods business with his father, but in a couple of years the firm was burned out. He then engaged in farming for some three years, after which he returned to Dixon and went into his present business, which he has followed for nearly twenty years. Mr. Ayres was married on August 11, 1858, to Miss Sarah J. Perry, of Dixon, and they have two children: Minnie, aged twenty, and Oscar P., aged seventeen, both of whom reside with their parents.

ELI C. SMITH, principal of the south side public school, Dixon, was born in 1829, in Essex county, New York, and is the son of Almerin and Lois (Larrabee) Smith. His father was a farmer, and in 1833 was a member of the New York legislature. He died in Savannah, Illinois, in 1854. E. C. Smith was brought up and educated in the State of New York, and came to Illinois in 1850, locating first at Geneva, and after remaining there a year removed to Rock Island, where he resided for three years as principal of the Rock Island Seminary. In 1855 he came to Dixon and commenced his school-work in what was then known as the Dixon Collegiate Institute,—now known as Rock River University,—where he continued until the fall of 1857. He then engaged in the mercantile business, which he carried on until the fall of 1861, at which time he became principal of the south side Dixon school, which position he still fills. Mr. Smith is also manager and part proprietor of the Nachusa nursery, which was established in 1854 by J. T. Little, and purchased by Mr. Smith, in connection with his brother, the Rev. Dr. Smith, of Chicago, in 1871. Dr. Smith is also editor of the "Standard," a religious journal of the Baptist denomination. Mr. Smith was first married at Granville, Washington county,

New York, on December 2, 1853, to Miss Eliza A. Mason, who died in October 1870, and left surviving two sons: Herbert O., born in September 1859, at Dixon, and who is now practicing medicine in Minnesota, and Edward T., born in Morrison, Illinois, July 26, 1861, and residing at Dixon. His second marriage occurred September 26, 1872, to Miss Seraphina F. Gardner, of Dixon, by whom he has three children: Kenneth G., aged seven years; Percy A., aged five, and Anna M., aged two years. In politics he is a member of the republican party, and belongs to the Baptist church.

CHARLES A. TODD, merchant, Dixon, is a native of Broome county, New York, having been born there September 4, 1857. His parents were George W. and Frances M. (Yarrington) Todd. His father is a farmer and both parents are still living. Mr. Todd received his education at the schools in the vicinity of his birthplace, and after leaving school came to Dixon in 1869 and entered the store of his uncle, J. H. Todd, as a clerk, where he remained until January 1, 1879, when he purchased the hat and cap business of J. C. Keir, and on January 1, 1880, bought a half interest in the clothing and furnishing goods business conducted for many years by his uncle above mentioned, and since that time both stores have been carried on under the firm name of J. H. & C. A. Todd. Mr. Todd was married to Miss Sarah J. Austin, of Dixon, December 26, 1877. He is one of the most enterprising young merchants of Lee county, and by his fair dealing and energy has established an enviable reputation. His political affiliations are republican and he is a member of the Baptist church.

JOSIAH FRY, ice-dealer, Dixon, is a native of Lee county, having been born in Dixon township in 1843, and is the son of John and Mary (Klinetop) Fry. His father came to Lee county at an early day and engaged in farming. He is still living on his farm near Dixon. Mr. Fry was educated at the schools near his home and in Dixon, and after leaving school followed farming for about ten years. In 1872 he moved into Dixon and engaged in the coal and lumber business, which he carried on until about a year ago, at which time he bought out the ice business formerly conducted by Louis Faulthaber, and has since been engaged in that enterprise. Mr. Fry was married September 13, 1866, to Miss Mary C. Stettler, of Pennsylvania, and his family consists of six children: John E., aged fourteen; Mary E., aged twelve; Bert, aged nine; Annie E., aged seven; Ollie, aged five, and Ernest J., aged two years. In politics Mr. Fry is a thorough-going and active republican.

CHARLES DEMENT, deceased, Dixon, was born in Franklin county, Illinois, on December 25, 1822, and was the son of David and Elizabeth (Kirkpatrick) Dement, and was a half-brother of Col. John Dement. After the death of his father the family removed to Shelby county,

Illinois, where his earlier years were spent, but in 1845 his mother came to Dixon and he was sent as a student to Mount Morris Seminary. On his return he became associated with his brother, Col. Dement, in dealing in land, and while thus engaged he purchased a large interest in what was then called Fulton City, but which is now known as Fulton, Illinois. He soon after removed there, and erected at great expense one of the largest and finest hotels in the west, which was called the Dement House. He carried on this establishment for several years, but it having caused him considerable financial embarrassment, he finally sold the property, which is now used as an educational institution. He returned to Dixon and became engaged in land operations, and also in farming to some extent, up to the time of his death, which took place December 18, 1875. He was first married in 1851, to Miss Amanda Sterling, of Dixon, of which marriage there is one child surviving, Charles A. Dement, whose sketch will be found below. Mr. Dement was married a second time, to Miss Myra Huntley, of Dixon, December 25, 1861, and at his death left four children surviving: David Louis, aged nineteen; Marian A., aged seventeen; George W., aged twelve, and Amelia E., aged nine years.

CHARLES A. DEMENT, son of Charles and Amanda (Sterling) Dement, was born in Dixon, November 20, 1852, and received his education principally at the public schools of that city, though for three years he was a student at the Western Union College, Chicago. After completing his education he began his business career as a dealer in fancy fruits and groceries, which he carried on for about two years, but in 1876 engaged in the livery business at Dixon, which he still carries on. He was married September 30, 1880, to Miss Jennie Hunt, of Stanwood, Iowa. Mr. Dement is a young man of business habits and ability, and has the characteristic push and enterprise which were exhibited in the business careers of his father and uncle.

JOHN COFFEY, butcher, Dixon, was born in Oneida county, New York, on March 9, 1841, and is the son of Timothy and Ellen (Chanley) Coffey. His father was a farmer and died in the State of New York in 1848. Mr. Coffey came west when only fourteen years of age, and located at Peru, Illinois, where he learned the trade of a butcher, and after following that occupation for a year or two he also learned the tinsmith's trade. Soon after he removed to Dixon and worked at various employments until 1865, when he engaged in his present business. He was married at Dixon, in 1867, to Miss Margaret E. Haley, and has three children: Mary E., aged eleven; Agnes A., aged seven; and John H., aged three years. Politically Mr. Coffey belongs to the republican party.

WILLIAM PLEIN, restauraut, Dixon, was born at Trier, Germany,



Fraternally Yours  
Jas A Hawley





January 11, 1854, and is the son of John and Margaret (Plein) Plein. He was brought up and educated in his native town, and when nineteen years of age came to America and located at Dixon. He was soon after employed at the brewery of J. B. Clears, where he remained several years, when he opened a restaurant and is now engaged in that business. Mr. Plein was married February 18, 1881, to Miss Rosa Buckmann, of Dixon, but after the short space of four months lost his wife, Mrs. Plein dying June 15, 1881.

GEORGE G. ROSBROOK, liveryman, Dixon, was born in Monroe county, New York, November 5, 1835, and was the son of John B. and Lucretia (Green) Rosbrook. His father was a farmer, and the family removed to Niagara county, New York, soon after the birth of George, and he was educated at Lockport, in that county. In 1854 his father came west and settled in Harmon township, Lee county, where he engaged in farming and stock-raising, which he carried on until the time of his death, in the spring of 1872. After the death of his father the farm was managed by the subject of this sketch until 1874, when he came to Dixon and purchased the interest of J. T. Cheney in the livery business, conducted by Cheney & Perry, the new firm being Perry & Rosbrook. About a year later the partnership was dissolved, and Mr. Rosbrook has since carried on the business alone. He was married on January 16, 1858, to Miss Mary Tuttle, of Harmon, and has six children surviving: Fannie, aged twenty-two, was married to John Jenkins, of Harmon, in 1879; Tryon, aged twenty-one, resides in Dakota, where he is engaged in farming; Nettie, aged nineteen; Bartow, aged seventeen; Louis, aged fifteen, and Emma, aged thirteen, are all residing at the home of their parents. Politically Mr. Rosbrook is a member of the republican party.

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### SUBLETTE TOWNSHIP.

This is No. 19 N., in R. 11 E. of the 4th P.M. Bureau county bounds it on the south, and La Salle county forms half of the eastern boundary. It has a very fertile soil and is but slightly undulating. In places it is a little low, but is all capable of easy drainage. The soil is black, excepting a little in the northwestern part, which is sandy. Here a part of Palestine Grove covers Sec. 6 and portions of 5 and 7. Nearly all of Knox Grove is in this township, on Secs. 24 and 25, along Bureau creek, mostly on the south side. This stream enters the township near the middle of the eastern boundary of Sec. 24, and flows across the southeast corner, through Secs. 24, 26, 34 and 33, leaving near the southeast corner of the latter. Below Knox Grove it is

slightly skirted with timber, and is the only stream of any importance in the town. About half a mile south of it, and running nearly parallel with it, is a part of the old "Chicago road," which in an early day led from that city to Princeton. Many of these diagonal roads once intersected this region, but most of them have been abandoned. A few remnants, however, still remain. A part of the original La Salle and Grand Detour road is still in use through Sec. 17 and a part of 18. In the eastern part of the town there are two pieces of road of the same nature. There is a road running north and south through the center of the town, and another east and west to within half a mile of the east and west boundaries. The Illinois Central railroad crosses the eastern line of Sec. 36, and runs nearly due northwest through Secs. 36, 25, 23, 15, 9, 8, 5 and 6, dividing the town nearly in the center. The old Black Hawk "Army Trail" crossed the town in nearly the same direction, entering near the southeast corner and leaving on the west line of Sec. 18. The old telegraph line and stage route from Dixon to Peru entered the town at the northwest corner of Sec. 30 and left near the center of the south line of the same section.

#### EARLY SETTLEMENTS.

The settlement of Sublette township dates from 1837. Jonathan Peterson came to Ottawa, Illinois, in October 1836; he had come from New Hampshire by Lake Erie to Detroit, and thence afoot to Ottawa. Here he spent the winter of 1836-7, and in February started for Lee county. The same summer he made a claim in the northwestern part of Sec. 4, Sublette, and after building a log cabin just over the line in Lee Center, he went back to his native state and was married, returning with his wife the following year. In June, 1837, Sherman Hatch arrived in Dixon and came across the country to Lee Center township to Chas. F. Ingals, who had settled there the previous year. The same summer or fall he settled on the southwest part of Sec. 7, taking possession of and completing a log house that had been partly built by four young men from Chicago, who had abandoned their claim. In the fall of 1837 Mr. Hatch returned to Vermont. He came back the next year with his wife, whose marriage he had recently celebrated. He claimed a half section of prairie and nearly as much timber in the vicinity of his first settlement, but did not enter much of it, having loaned most of his money to parties who were unable to pay him when the land was offered for sale. The same fall Thomas and William Fessenden, with their families, came on from New Hampshire, Thomas Fessenden having been west as early as 1834 and returned the same year to New Hampshire. They claimed land on Secs. 6 and 7, and built a log house on the southeast corner of the N.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 7,

and moved into it in December, having lived in the meantime on the "Blunt place," Amboy township. This was the first real settlement in Sublette, and the nearest neighbor of the Fessendens at that time was Joseph Doane, who was living about half a mile from the "Blunt place." The following year William Fessenden built half a mile north, on the southeast corner of the S.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 6, where John H. Long now lives. In 1838 Joseph Knox and his family settled at the south end of the grove which bears their name. The same year Sylvanus Peterson settled on the S.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 5. Before 1840 John Morton and R. E. Goodall settled north of him on land now owned by William Long, jr., and Russell Phillips on the southwestern part of Sec. 5, claiming forty there and forty opposite in Sec. 8. In 1839 Daniel Baird settled where Elijah Austin lives, on the La Salle and Grand Detour road, on Sec. 17. Mr. Baird settled in La Salle in the fall of 1836. The same year (1839) Phineas Rust built the first frame house in Sublette, on Sec. 30, half a mile south of where Ambrose Angier is now living. Mr. Rust never lived here, but sold his claim, the N.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 30, to Philo Stanard and Thomas Angier late in 1840. The same year Thomas Tourtillott built a frame house  $16 \times 20$  on Sec. 31, and O. Bryant settled on the "Old Chicago road" on Sec. 35. In 1842 Thomas Angier built a frame house where his present buildings are located. Gilbert Thompson also built on the site now occupied by Mrs. Fauble, on the S.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of S.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 31.

In 1843 Ephriam Reniff settled with his family on the S.  $\frac{1}{2}$  N.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 19, and afterward entered the same. It was in this year that Hiram Anderson settled on the N.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of S.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 33. The jumping of his claim subsequently caused quite an excitement among the rulers of the prairie. Bull, the offending party, lived at Dixon, and when it was known that Anderson's claim had been "jumped," the "Claim Society," consisting of all the settlers within several miles, turned out en masse, and going to Dixon well armed demanded the person of Mr. Bull. There were about sixty-five in the party, and the "jumper" was easily taken. While on their way back to the claim Sheriff Campbell interviewed the party, and concluded an agreement with them by which Bull was turned over to him. This was on the condition that the contestants should meet on a certain fixed day, and that the deed of the "forty" in dispute should be returned to Anderson, who was to pay the first cost of the land. The summary treatment employed in this case had the desired effect, and settlers in this region were not troubled again in a similar way. In 1844 Alpheus Crawford came to the Knox Grove settlement, and bought from widow Pratt a claim of eighty acres on the S.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of Sec. 13 for \$75. At this time several families had settled at the grove. Daniel Pratt, Levi Camp and



J. B. Barton were early settlers here. The same year Prescott Bartlett claimed the S.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of N.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  and the N.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of S.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 20, and built a log house on the same. Silas Reniff settled where he now lives, on Sec. 20, and claimed about half a section. He entered only 160 acres, the N.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of N.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 20, and the S.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of S.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 17. In this year (1844) John Betz settled on the S.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 33, and in 1845 Hoffman settled on the S.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the same. In 1846 Bartholomew Theiss made a claim of 120 acres on Secs. 29 and 30, where Godfred Theiss lives. In 1844 R. P. Hubbard settled and claimed the N.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of N.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  and N.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of N.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 17. H. N. Erskine settled the "Kasper place," on Sec. 35, at an early day.

In the year 1844 was the land sale at Dixon. That year is known to this day by old settlers as the wettest season on record, from May until August. But few of the settlers were prepared to pay for their land, and consequently they formed themselves into societies for the protection of their homes, until they could raise the money necessary to pay for the land they had claimed. The circumstance mentioned above had the effect of deterring speculators from abroad. Many farms were secured through Mexican land warrants on the market here soon after the close of the Mexican war. Many good farms were bought with these by men who could not have raised the cash to buy from the government at \$1.25 per acre. But little land had been bought from the government before these warrants appeared, but within five years after nearly all was sold except that held by the Illinois Central Railroad Company, and this was sold very soon.

In an early day wolves were plentiful, and are not yet extinct. In 1848 Alpheus Crawford and others killed a bear north of Knox Grove which weighed 400 pounds.

For many years after the settlement of this region prairie fires were the scourge of the settlements. Many are the thrilling incidents related of their ravages. Mrs. Baird relates her experience in fighting one when Mr. Baird was away from home. She whipped it until she was completely exhausted and had suffered greatly from the heat of the fire; and all the time expecting it would sweep their house and entire personal effects. Early in October, 1845, the settlers were visited by one of these fires. It is described by one of the early settlers in nearly the following words: "After dark my family noticed in the southwest the light of a fire so far off that it seemed it would not reach them before morning. That night a family of emigrants from Tennessee were camped in their wagon on a small piece of breaking near my house. About midnight my wife was aroused by loud knocking and other noise. Upon getting up she found a girl about twelve years old nearly frightened to death. (This girl was the

only one of the emigrants not sick.) Going out of doors she saw the whole country southwest and west in a blaze of fire, some of which was thirty feet high. She started for the nearest house, which was half a mile distant, and aroused the inmates, and then a quarter of a mile further to another dwelling, where all were sleeping. These parties all had property that would have been destroyed had they not been warned. Upon returning home she found the worst danger over, the main fire having passed a little northwest of the building and breaking. Her husband, who was in Chicago at the time, found on his return the entire prairie burnt over."

Nearly all of the early settlers teamed to Chicago more or less till the Illinois Central road came through. Produce was cheap, but this was the only way known to raise a little money. Often would they return home with a few trifles, the gross profits of an eight or ten days' trip. Little or nothing was taken for expenses, and often would a man be gone a week or two without entering a house. They would often go in companies of ten or more ox-teams, generally entering the city in the morning and coming out at night, thereby avoiding hotel bills. For a good load of wheat or dressed-pork but a few dollars would be realized. Often the driver had to unhitch his team and carry his load out of a slough on his back, and not unlikely this interesting process would have to be several times repeated during one trip. The farmers also went a long distance to get their milling done. For several years they went to Greene's mill, at Dayton, and to other points on the Fox river.

But little was seen of the Indians by the settlers of Sublette. Old Shabona, however, with his followers, was an annual visitor for several years, passing, as he did, across the town on his way from his reservation, in DeKalb county, to the swamp near Walnut grove, in Bureau county. Shabona was a noble red-man, and on account of his friendship shown the settlers in the Black Hawk war, became very much endeared to them.

The first post-office was that of Brookfield, at Daniel Baird's house, started about 1840.

In 1841 O. Bryant burned a kiln of brick on the northwest corner of Sec. 35. In 1850 a certain Beck built a blacksmith shop on or near the site now occupied by Dorsey Scott's shop. Richardson, Daniel Baird, Thomas Tourtillott, and Morrison, just over the line in May town, kept taverns in an early day.

*Township Organization.*—Soon after the organization of Lee county the west half of Sublette, and what is now May, were known as Bureau precinct; the polls were held at the house of Daniel Baird. The east part of the township was incorporated with a part of Brooklyn,

with their voting place at Knox Grove. In 1849 the county was divided into townships. This town was first called Hamo. The railroad company having named their depot Sublette, it was desired to have the name of the township correspond, and consequently a petition was sent in the winter of 1856-7 to John V. Eustace, representative in the Illinois legislature. The name was accordingly changed to Sublette. This name was first employed, it is said, because of the frequent subletting of the grading of the road in this vicinity. The first town meeting was held on the second Tuesday in April 1850, "for the purpose of electing town officers, dividing the town into road districts, and for the transaction of other business." Alpheus Crawford was chosen moderator and Daniel Baird clerk for said meeting. A tax of 12½ cents on every \$100 of taxable property was voted to be assessed and collected. Stock was prohibited from running at large from November 15 to April 1 of each year. The first election resulted in the choice of Daniel Baird for supervisor, Henry Porter clerk, Whitlock T. Porter assessor, Silas D. Reniff collector, Daniel Pratt overseer of the poor, Hiram Anderson and W. H. Hamblin highway commissioners, Samuel Averill and Thos. S. Angier constables, Alpheus Crawford and Andrew Bertholf justices of the peace. The town was divided into nine road districts two miles square. April 17, 1851, the highway commissioners ordered that district number "10" be formed out of the east half of Secs. 20 and 17, and the west half of sections 16 and 21. At an election held in the school-house in district "3" April 6, 1852, forty-six votes were cast for supervisor, forty-seven for assessor, forty-five for collector, and forty-seven for town clerk. It was voted that the next annual town meeting be held at the house of Daniel Pratt, at Knox Grove. In 1854 the annual meeting was held at the house of Daniel Wilcox on Sec. 15, and in 1855 at the house of Daniel Maxwell. At this meeting \$1,000 was voted for the erection of a town-house in the village of Sublette. Thomas Angier, H. Benton and Prescott Bartlett were appointed a committee to report a site for the same. At a special meeting held in December, Thomas Angier, John Tourtillott, S. Reniff, Thomas Fessenden and Horatio Benton were appointed a committee to build a house one story high, and of a size to correspond with funds voted for that purpose. At a meeting held in 1858, \$150 was appropriated to bridge Bureau creek at the old army trail. At the annual meeting in 1860 a fence law was passed declaring what should be considered a legal fence, whether of wire, rails or boards. In 1860, 150 votes were cast for the supervisor, and the same number for town clerk, 152 for assessor, 147 for collector. In 1866, 177 was the highest vote cast for any office: Silas Reniff was unanimously chosen assessor. For justice of the peace T. Angier re-

ceived all but one (176), and A. L. Wilder the same number for town clerk. In 1881 about 220 votes were cast. The supervisors of Sublette have been: Daniel Baird three years, S. Peterson one year, T. Angier eighteen years, Albert Linn one year, Jonathan Peterson three years, John Theiss, five years, G. M. Crawford one year. The justices of the peace have been T. Angier thirty-one years, Alpheus Crawford six years, A. Bertholf one year, James Brewer one year, W. F. Wilder one year, A. B. Linn eight years, Daniel Barton three years, Isaac Clink one year, N. W. Smith twelve years. Silas D. Reniff was elected assessor of Sublette in 1854, and except three years has assessed the town ever since. A. L. Wilder with one exception has held the office of town clerk since 1864.

The village of Sublette occupies parts of Secs. 9, 10, 15 and 16. The Illinois Central railroad buildings, a depot and a warehouse on the northwest corner of Sec. 15, were built in the summer of 1854. Daniel Cook built the first dwelling house the same winter. In the following summer A. L. Wilder built a small store, in the back part of which he lived. Jesse Hale began his store about the same time. George A. Richmond put up a house, and did a flourishing business in the sale of lots. Mr. Swartwout built the same fall a part of the house which he finished the next year, and lived in the winter of 1855-6. Frank Bartlett built what is now the Catholic parsonage in the fall of 1855 and moved into it the same winter. Paul Lindstraum built a shanty the same fall and began his tavern, which he completed the next year. Doctor Smith built a part of his present residence and got into it in December. Hugh Carr came in the dead of winter and rigged up an old barn in which he lived a short time. "Uncle Aba" Hale came in 1856, also the families of James Colvin and Robert Ash. J. B. Barton came the same year and opened a drug store. There are now fifty-seven families in the village, doing a good business. The Methodist, Baptist, Congregational and Catholic churches are located here.

*Sublette Lodge, No. 349, A.F. and A.M.*— The dispensation was issued to Thomas S. Angier, W. D. Tourtillott, Jacob D. Tourtillott, James Tourtillott, Daniel Barton, B. F. Berkley, and Prescott Bartlett, and the first meeting was held January 31, 1860. The charter of the lodge was issued October, 1860, to Thomas Angier, W.M.; W. D. Tourtillott, S.W.; Jacob D. Tourtillott, J.W.; James Tourtillott, secretary; Daniel Barton, S.D.; B. F. Berkley, J.D.; Daniel Baird, treasurer; H. C. Chapman, and N. J. Swartwout. At first meetings were held in the rear of Jesse Hale's store, and subsequently on the second floor of the school building. In 1870 the members of the lodge put up a building at a cost of \$2,500. The first meeting in the new hall



was held August 16, 1870. The lower part of their building is rented for store purposes, and is now occupied by Frank Thompson. The present membership of the lodge is thirty, five of whom are non-resident. The present officers are Joseph H. Ayres, W.M.; Joel S. Cook, S.W.; Henry Paris, J.W.; E. W. Patten, treasurer; T. S. Angier, secretary; Oliver A. Wood, S.D.; William Obernau, J.D.; Lafayette Long, tiler.

*Cemeteries.*—There are several burial places in the township. The most important of these are the one at the Catholic church in Sec. 32, and that in Sec. 4 on the land of N. and J. Peterson. In the first nearly a hundred have been buried, all Catholics, and some from a considerable distance. In both, many of the old settlers are buried, one of whom, in the latter, is Jonathan Peterson, sr. Near here on the N.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 3, are several graves. Near Knox Grove is a small cemetery in which Daniel Pratt and others of the early settlers of this vicinity are reposing. Several interments have been made near the Catholic church in the village of Sublette. Daniel Baird was buried on the farm which he last owned. This is the "eighty" entered by E. Reniff. Besides these there are a few other small burial places within the town.

#### CHURCHES AND SCHOOLS.

Many of the first settlers here were church members, and consequently religious meetings date from the beginning of society here. They were of a very humble and unpretentious style, and in keeping with the spirit of the time. Few went, we apprehend, to display finery—if any there were to display; nor did they have churches of any kind for many years in which to worship. Primitive dwellings or rude school-houses were their only temples, and in these did they often meet to sing their songs of praise and offer their devout prayers to a Father whose guidance they sought. The first church organization in Sublette was that of the Baptists. This was effected April 1843, in Jonathan Peterson's log house. There were at first thirteen members: Jonathan Peterson, sr., and his wife, Jonathan Peterson, jr., Sylvanus Peterson and his wife, Nathaniel, Mary and Hope Peterson, Jonathan Eells, Hubbard Eells and his wife, Joshua Rogers and his wife. Meetings were held in the log school in this vicinity as soon as it was built; previously from house to house. This was the central or mother organization for quite a large adjoining region, and was known as the first Baptist church of Palestine Grove. Meetings were held alternately on opposite sides of this grove for the mutual accommodation of those who lived widely apart. Some of the members of this society became by letter members of the Baptist church of Amboy at its or-

ganization. In 1854 meetings were first held in Benton's Hall, on Sec. 16, about half a mile west of the site of the church in which they now assemble, and here they continued till 1858, when, in November, they dedicated a church edifice in the village of Sublette, on Main street, erected at a cost of \$5,000. The first pastor was Rev. Henry Headley, of La Moille. Jonathan Peterson, sr., was the first deacon, and Warren Hills, the second. Sylvanus Peterson was the first clerk. Pastors have been: Charles Cross, E. O. Whittaker, J. H. Morrison, A. S. Denison, O. D. Taylor, Albert Guy, A. S. Merrifield, H. C. Yates, R. R. Coon. Jonathan Peterson and A. L. Swartwout are the present deacons, and A. J. Rogers is clerk. The society has a membership of about 120, is out of debt, and owns a parsonage worth \$2,000. The Sunday-school of the church is in a flourishing condition, and is superintended by Abram Swartwout.

*Methodist Episcopal Church.*—The first Methodist organization within the limits of the township was at the house of Levi Camp, at Knox Grove, about thirty-five years ago. Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Pratt, Mr. and Mrs. John Skinner, Mr. and Mrs. Vertrees, Joseph, Miriam and Sarah Vertrees, Mrs. Levi Ellsworth, Mrs. Dr. Heath, Mrs. John Clink, Joseph Knox and his family, were early members; also Mr. and Mrs. John Barnes, Albert Linn and his wife, Skinner Pratt and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. Wood. These parties were then living around or near Knox Grove. Nearly all of them were first members. For quite a number of years the society was supplied by circuit preachers. Elder Julian was a very early preacher in this vicinity. Milton Hana and U. P. Golliday were others. For several years meetings were held in the town hall at the village of Sublette. W. H. Smith was one of the first pastors at the "Hall." In 1870 a church was built and was dedicated in 1871. The ministers of the church since have been: F. F. Farmiloe, Wm. A. Cross, Philo Gorton, T. C. Youngs, E. Brown, W. H. Records, and M. C. Smith (supplied). The officers of the church at present are W. W. Ireland, W. R. Long, C. Brown, John H. Gentry, trustees; W. R. Long, Mrs. W. W. Ireland, C. Brown, E. Lewis, Mrs. Joel Cook, Statira Crawford, stewards, and Ida Ireland, recording steward. But very few of the early members are left, they either having died or moved away.

*Congregational Church.*—The organization of this society was effected April 20, 1871. Rev. E. Baker was the first pastor. Meetings were at first held in the town hall. The officers were: John Methven and Elias Purdy, deacons; Levi Mead, clerk; Russell M. Brown, treasurer. There were about thirty original members, among whom were John Methven and wife, Mrs. Walter Morse, Mrs. Jane Ells, E. Purdy and wife, Russell Brown and his family, Wm. Brown and

wife, H. C. Chapman and wife, Levi Mead and wife. A few weeks after the organization of the society a church was begun, which cost about \$5,000. The officers of the church are E. Purdy, jr., and Chas. Hatch, deacons; Edward Fessenden, John Tourtillott and E. Purdy, jr., trustees; Chas. H. Ingals, treasurer E. Purdy, clerk. The first Sabbath-school was superintended by Russell Brown, under whom it flourished. Mr. Edward Fessenden is the present superintendent.

*Church of the Evangelical Association of North America.*—This society built their church in 1864, on the N.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 35, at a cost of \$2,000. This is a branch from the church of the same denomination at Perkins' Grove, Bureau county. The services are all in German. The preachers who officiate at this writing are the Revs. Woehr and Fry, this being in the Perkins Grove circuit and Mendota district. The Sabbath-school in connection with the church has an average membership of about 55. J. C. Speilman is the superintendent. The trustees are Messrs. Barth, Richert and Speilman. The membership at present consists of a dozen or more families.

*Roman Catholic Church.*—The organization of this church was effected in the fall of 1848. Meetings were first held at the house of Bartholomew Theiss. Among the first families of the church were the Steins, Katzenbargers, Theisses, Beckers, Smiths, Lauer, Krebs, and others. Rev. N. Steele was the first priest. In 1853 a church was built on Sec. 32, on land owned by A. Stein. A parsonage was also built. This burned in 1869, since which the church has not had a regular priest. The Catholic church built in the village of Sublette in 1868 is a branch of this, also the German Catholic church built a few years ago in May township. Only seven of the original members are left, and meetings are held in the old church only a few times a year.

*Schools.*—The school land was sold about 1850, and the town was soon divided into ten districts. On each of these is a good school-house. There is also a school in connection with the Catholic church at the village. As early as 1841 there was a Sunday-school started in the Tourtillott neighborhood. This was not in connection with any church. The prime movers in this work were Father Tourtillott and Mrs. Angier. It was not continued more than a year or two. The first school was in a log house on Tom Fessenden's farm; the next was in a slab building on the farm of Thomas Tourtillott. This was a structure used at first for preemption purposes, and was never intended for a school-house. It was afterward known as the "sheep pen." Maria Codman, of New York, was the first teacher here. The next school in this vicinity was taught in the winter by Joseph Carey in Mrs. Tourtillott's house; and the next of any importance in Mrs. Richardson's house by John Bacon, about 1850. The third school in the

town of Sublette was in the log school-house on Sec. 5. Mrs. Clute, sister of Jonathan Peterson, taught the first summer school here about 1844. The winter school held here was for several years quite important, being well attended by an advanced class of students.

#### WAR RECORD.

Sublette has a war record of which her people are justly proud. According to the population and area, it seems almost incredible that so many men should have been furnished within the short space of four and a half years. From the beginning to the close of the great civil war Sublette sent fathers and sons into the service, till her energies seemed all but exhausted. When the great struggle was nearly ended, and the town shorn of its strength, a number of men were hired: nearly all of them from outside of the township. The quota of troops for Sublette was 204, fourteen of whom were veterans. Of the veterans who first enlisted from within the township but two were afterward hired, the others having volunteered their services.

*The Lee County Guards.*—Designated as Co. F, 12th Inf., was mustered into the military service September 20, 1878, by Maj. W. G. Coulter, with a membership of sixty-one men, which augmented till, at its annual inspection and muster, March 31, 1879, it numbered ninety-eight, and 103 at the annual inspection and muster, March 31, 1880; thirty-four more than any other infantry company in the State of Illinois.

The Guards have been the recipients of many invitations to participate in public demonstrations and ceremonies, among which were decoration of soldiers' graves by the citizens of Mendota, May 30, 1879; the Guards being escort for procession, and were handsomely entertained by the city.

They encamped with the 3d reg. I.N.G., at Freeport, July 3, 4 and 5, 1879, being entertained by the public. They encamped four days with the 1st brig. I.N.G., in September 1879, at South Park, Chicago, at which time eighty-one men reported for duty. On November 5, at a reception tendered Gen. Grant by the citizens of Mendota, the Guards had the honor of being the first military company to receive and escort the general in Illinois after his tour around the world. On July 4, 1880, at a celebration in Amboy, they escorted the procession and were guests of the city. Having accepted an invitation to attend the twenty-fifth annual fair of the northwest, held at Sterling, September 14, 15, 16, and 17, the company was entertained with princely hospitality by the management of the association. At this time it escorted Gen. Grant and other gentlemen of national reputation, among whom were Gov. Cullom and Gen. Logan. On account of



their discipline and military precision strangers mistook the Guards for soldiers from the regular army. The commissioned officers are Chas. H. Ingals, captain; William Deter, first lieutenant; Phillip H. Schwab, second lieutenant. A large proportion of non-commissioned officers and a number of privates were soldiers in the late war. The rank and file, by their persistent and determined effort to excel, have succeeded in attaining proficiency and excellence in military discipline and tactics for which they have, without an exception, received commendation and profuse compliments from the assistant superintendent general whenever paraded for inspection, and are now rated as one of the best companies of the Illinois National Guard.

Its property is valued at \$4,000, secured without outside assistance (except about \$100). It consists of an iron roofed armory, which contains drill-room, gun-room, officers' quarters, dining-room and kitchen, and is one of the best in Illinois.

The organization is a grand success, and an honor to itself, the locality in which it exists, and the county it represents.

The armory is 40×96 feet, one and two stories high. Musical instruments, colors, munitions, etc.

#### BIOGRAPHICAL.

JONATHAN PETERSON, farmer, Sublette, is one of a family of three boys and eight girls. He was born in Truxton, Courtland county, New York, in 1812. His parents, Jonathan and Doretha (Smith) Peterson, were born in Franklin county, Massachusetts. His mother was of Irish descent. He was reared a farmer, and enjoyed the benefits of a common school education. He came west in 1836 via the Erie canal, Lake Erie, and across Michigan afoot to Chicago, where he stopped one week; thence to Ottawa, La Salle county. Here he spent the winter of 1836-7, whence he came directly to Lee county in the following spring, and settled in Lee Center township, near its southern boundary, nearly opposite his present home in Sec. 4, Sublette, having moved across the line about twenty-five years ago. In the fall of 1837 Mr. Peterson went back east and was married to Percis Avery, of Connecticut. With his bride our subject came to his western home in the spring of 1838. In these early days Mr. Peterson hauled much produce to Chicago; in 1840 he took up a load of wheat, and brought back his parents and their family (except one sister), who had come on from the east. He has had five children: Francis Augusta, born April 1839, was a graduate of the first class of the state normal school, Normal, Illinois; was married July 1862 to E. A. Gastman, her classmate, and now a prominent educator and principal of schools, Decatur, Illinois. She died in the winter of 1863. Before her marriage she taught in Normal and

Decatur. Alice M., born in the fall of 1840; in March, 1863, married to W. F. Hoyt; died of consumption in the latter part of 1863. Mr. Hoyt is now residing in Clinton, Iowa. Emeline W. was born in May 1842, second wife of A. J. Biddle, her second husband, a native of Indiana, and a veteran of the Union army in the late rebellion. Myron J. was born in April 1844. In September, 1862, he enlisted at Dixon in the 75th Ill. Vols.; was wounded at Perryville, and was sent back to the hospital at New Albany, Indiana, reëntered his regiment June 1863; was in the 75th Ill. Vols. until the close of the war. Myron was in the following engagements: Chickamauga, Chattanooga, with Sherman to Atlanta, and back with Thomas to Tennessee. In 1873 he took up a soldier's claim in Nebraska, where with his wife he is now living. Walter A. was born in April 1852, is married and living in Wisconsin, having gone to that state in March 1881. The subject of this sketch has twice been supervisor of Sublette, having held that office three years. In an early day he was elected justice of the peace for Lee Center township, but did not qualify for the office. He is a republican and a deacon of the Baptist church, of which he and his wife are prominent members. Mrs. Peterson, daughter of Elisha and Percis (Pease) Avery, was born 1811. Her father was born in Massachusetts, her mother in Connecticut. Her ancestors on both sides are a long-lived race. Her mother's grandfather was born in Ireland, her father's people were from England. Her uncle, Walter Pease, aged ninety-eight, is living on the Connecticut river, near Hartford, where seven generations of the Pease family have lived. He is active yet and walks all over his farm. Her grandfather and grandmother on both sides lived to be over eighty years old. At one time her father had four widowed sisters, all more than eighty years old, living in Hartford, Connecticut. Mr. Biddle, the son-in-law of Mr. Peterson, is an industrious, self-made man. He left his home when he was eleven years old, and began for himself. He was a lumberman twelve years in Indiana. He has farmed in Lee Center township; is a republican and a member of the Baptist church. He was born in 1835.

CHARLOTTE (Field) BAIRD was born in Worcester county, Massachusetts, in 1811. Her mother, Martha Hitchcock, was born in 1868, and her mother's mother and father were born in 1742 and 1740 respectively. The name of the latter was David. Mrs. Baird has a brother and a sister: Seth, born in 1802, living in Massachusetts, and Adeline O. (Mrs. Baldwin), born in 1807, is living in La Salle county, Illinois, with Elmer Baldwin, her husband, and author of a history of La Salle county. Charlotte Field was married in December 1832, to Daniel Baird, born in Tioga county, New York, in 1806. Mr. Baird was reared a merchant and had a common school education. He came to La-

Salle county in 1836, via Buffalo, Detroit and Chicago. Mrs. Baird and her sister came in the fall of the same year, via the Ohio and St. Louis. In 1839 Daniel Baird and his family came to Lee county, Sublette, and settled within a few rods of where Elijah Austin now lives, on the old mail route from Peru to Grand Detour; he took up a claim for a large tract of land. Then there was no house between his place and Troy Grove, thirteen miles southeast, in La Salle, and only one between there and La Moille. Here was the first post-office in Sublette, called Brookfield, and afterward Hanno. Mr. Baird was widely and favorably known; he was the first supervisor of Sublette, and held the same office in 1858; he was county commissioner from 1844 to 1846 inclusive. In his house the first town meeting for Sublette was held. Baird's first house contained two twelve-pane windows and a stairway to the second floor, and compared with the greased-paper-window and peg-ladder-log-house, was considered by some rather stylish. He died in March 1866, and was buried in the family burial-ground. His family are: Marianne, born in 1838 (Mrs. Henry Chapman), living in Sublette township; Caroline (Mrs. Newton Pumphrey), 1843; Seth F., 1846. The latter is married and living on the homestead in Sec. 19, and with him Mrs. Baird is living. Newton Pumphrey is a tin-smith in the village of Sublette.

WILLIAM DEXTER, farmer, Sublette, was born in Canada, December 1831; he is the son of Elisha and Mary (Kane) Dexter, and the second in a family of eight. His mother, born in Ireland, came to Canada when she was about three years old. His father was born in New York state, and several of his people were in the revolution. Elisha Dexter was a radical in McKinzie's rebellion in Canada in 1837, and was in Michigan during the latter part of 1837. In 1838 he left Canada, after selling his farm near Toronto at a great sacrifice, and came to Illinois with his family. On their way they were all sick in Michigan, where his wife died. They arrived in Lee county in November 1839, and settled about a mile east of Binghamton, where they staid a short time; from here they moved to May township, where, after a little, Mr. Dexter bought a claim from John Dexter, his uncle, who came to Lee county in 1835. In 1846 he left this place, moved to the central part of the township, and bought a claim of 200 acres now owned by Jake Baker. Mr. Dexter, sr., died about 1858. In 1852 William Dexter married Martha Coleman, of Pennsylvania, whose people had come to Lee county about 1848. William had obtained a common school training, often going several miles to school. In 1858 he bought the W.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of S.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 4, Sublette, from Lewis Clapp for \$2,400, having previously owned land and farmed in May and Lee Center townships. He has since bought land in Secs. 8 and 9,

and now owns over 200 acres. In August 1862 Mr. Dexter enlisted in the 75th Ill. Vols., Co. E, Captain Frost, of Lee Center. During his entire service of nearly three years he was off duty only five days (in regimental hospital). Mr. Dexter drove a team about three months; drove an ambulance at Stone River, Liberty Gap, Chickamauga, Dalton, Resaca and Rome; here he was commissioned commissary sergeant of an army train, of which he had entire charge at Atlanta, and back with Thomas to Tennessee. He was discharged June 29, 1865. Mr. Dexter has nine children: Eliza, born 1853; Etta M., 1855; Emma, 1857; Otta, 1861; William, 1866; Ira, 1868; John, 1870; Margaret, 1872; Fred, 1874 (Martha, born 1859, died 1864). Etta is a graduate of the Northwest College, at Naperville; here Otta attended two years. Mr. Dexter has been nine years road commissioner, was chairman of the Garfield club of Sublette, is first lieutenant of the Lee county guards, and with his wife and four eldest daughters is a member of the Baptist church.

ALPHEUS H. CLINK, farmer, Sublette, was born in Bradford county, Pennsylvania, in 1829, and was brought up to farming. His parents were William and Rebecca (Hulburt) Clink. His father was born in New York, and was descended from German ancestors. His mother was born in Pennsylvania, and her grandfather was German, while her grandmother was Scotch. Of a family of six Alpheus was the third. He was educated at the common schools, and with the whole family came to Lee county in August 1843. His father bought a claim in Lee Center township from William Church; lived here a few years, and was engaged much of the time in teaming to Chicago, chiefly for Geo. E. Haskell, store-keeper at Inlet. In 1848 the family came to the N.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 12, Sublette, and entered the same. About this time the eldest daughter, Mrs. Lucretia Sawyer, died. The youngest boy died in 1854 of typhoid fever. In 1856 William Clink, the father, died of consumption, and was buried in Bradford cemetery, where the son and daughter had been laid. Margaret (Mrs. Canfield) died in Marshalltown, Iowa, in 1857. Isaac M. Clink is farming in Iowa. He is well known in this and Bureau county, having been a justice of the peace in both. In 1852 Alpheus Clink built an 18x20 frame house on the south "eighty" of the homestead. He has since bought sixty acres south of that. In 1879 he erected a fine dwelling, cost about \$1,800. He was first married in 1850, to Julia A. Canfield, by whom he had one son, now living in Greene county, Iowa. His wife died in December 1854. His second wife, Melissa M. Robinson, born in Ohio in 1837, has given birth to five children: Nina (Mrs. John Ellsworth), born September 1856, William H., 1857, Frank E., 1859, Harry, January 1869, and Sarah, December 1870. Mr. Clink is a republican.



ALPHEUS CRAWFORD, the father of Geo. M. Crawford, the subject of this sketch, was born December 28, 1798, in Lucerne (now Bradford) county, Pennsylvania. His grandparents on his father's side were born and married in Scotland. His father and mother were born in Connecticut, and the parents of the latter were English. During the revolution his father belonged to a guard of minute men at New Haven, Connecticut, and he witnessed Burgoyne's surrender. In 1844 Alpheus Crawford with a family of six children came west with a team and wagon via Buffalo, Lake Erie by boat, and across Michigan directly to Knox Grove, where seven or eight families were then living. He bought of widow Pratt, for \$75, a claim of the N.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of S.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 13, and a "forty" just east of the same. There was a log house on the place, and about seven acres were broken. He is still living here. Geo. M. Crawford, born December 19, 1825, was the second in a family of seven. His mother was Marsha Skinner, born June 1803. George received a common school education and in the spring of 1845 took a claim of the E.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of N.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 13, and an "eighty" east of the same. In the spring of 1849 he built a frame house, partly with lumber hauled from Chicago with a team. He was married the same year to Mrs. Lydia A. Dewey, daughter of Levi Camp, an old settler at Knox Grove. This lady died in 1852, and in December, 1859, Mr. Crawford married Maria J., daughter of Stephen Clink, an early settler in Bradford township. Three children are the offspring of this union: Milo H., born October, 1861; Norval M., born October 1863, Clara M., May 1870. In 1862 Mr. Crawford bought of Daniel Pratt the N.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of S.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 13, at \$30 per acre. He has also purchased the W.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of N.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 13, at \$58 per acre. In 1868 he built a house at a cost of \$2,000, and a barn in 1877 at a cost of \$1,200. Mr. Crawford is a republican, and his wife is a member of the Congregational church.

EDWARD M. LEWIS, wagon-maker and blacksmith, Sublette, was born in Broom county, Massachusetts, December 1844. He is the son of Joseph W. and Elsie (Shutts) Lewis, the latter of German descent. His father was from Vermont, and was a carpenter by trade. Edward was the eldest of four children, of whom two are now living. He worked on a farm until he was nineteen years old. In the meantime he obtained a common school education. He came with his parents to Lee county in 1845, first to Nachusa, thence in 1853 to Amboy, where they have since had a residence. He learned carriage wood-work of H. Sweet, of Amboy. Was married in 1868 to Sarah Tate, born of English parentage in 1851. Two boys have been born to them: Howard, in 1871, and Henry, 1876. Mr. Lewis began in Sublette in 1869. He owns property to the value of about \$1,000 and is doing a good business, chiefly wagon and carriage repairing. He is a republican, a



*E B Stiles*  
DECEASED.



member and officer of the Methodist Episcopal church, and belongs to the Lee county guards. His wife is a Baptist.

NELSON F. SWARTWOUT, farmer, Sublette, brother of Abram Swartwout, was born in Rock Island county, Illinois, in 1844. He attended the Lee Center Academy as well as a commercial school; enlisted at Dixon, October 1864, in the 34th Ill. Inf.; went into Tennessee, was first engaged at Nashville, and was there wounded. After being in the hospital a month and spending another at home on furlough, he was sent via New York to his regiment at Goldsboro, North Carolina, skirmished a little in this vicinity, and was mustered out July 12, 1865, at Louisville, Kentucky, having previously witnessed the grand review of Grant's and Sherman's armies at Washington. Mr. Swartwout has, at different times, been engaged in teaching school. He was married, October, 1869, to Amelia Nettleton, of Massachusetts. They have three children: Walter R., Mina L. and Nellie A. His farm of 170 acres in S.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 3 is well tilled and valuable. Mr. Swartwout votes the republican ticket, belongs to the Sublette Baptist church, and is a frank, outspoken man.

ABRAM L. SWARTWOUT, farmer, Sublette, was born October 20, 1841, in Rock Island county, Illinois. He is one of four children of Nelson J. and Abigail Ricker Swartwout: Abram L., Nelson F., Frank E. (deceased), and Hattie (Mrs. Wright). His father came to Illinois from Otsego county, New York, about 1836. His mother was born in Sangamon county, Illinois. After living in Lee Center township about ten years the family moved to Sublette in 1855. The senior Swartwout built here, and was the first lumber dealer and grain buyer in Sublette. He had built the first blacksmith shop in Lee Center township. This was on the old Chicago road from Dixon. Mr. Swartwout hauled lumber from Chicago to build his house in Lee Center. Frank, nine years old at his death, was killed by a horse in Sublette in 1856. Abram L. Swartwout received an academic education. He enlisted September 21, 1861, in Co. D, 34th Ill. Inf., at Springfield, Illinois. He went into Kentucky, came up with Buell's command at Shiloh the second day of the fight, afterward went to near Chattanooga, then fell back to Louisville when Bragg threatened Cincinnati. He was captured about the time of the engagement at Perryville, but was soon paroled. Early in 1863 was again in service. At Liberty Gap, June 1863, he was brigade inspector's clerk; was captured at Chikamauga, and was a prisoner seven months in Richmond and Danville, Virginia. June 10, 1864, Mr. Swartwout joined his regiment on the Atlanta campaign. He was mustered out September 1864, reenlisted March 1865, in the 4th U. S. Veterans, Hancock's corps. During most of his latter service he was a detailed clerk in the war department. Finally mustered



out April 1866. Mr. Swartwout was married to Carrie E. Thayer, of Massachusetts, September 1866. He settled on the homestead, where he now resides, having previously been one year in business with A. L. Wilder, in Sublette, and two years in the grocery business in Mendota, Illinois. He now has a farm of 240 acres, Sec. 4, S.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  and S.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of N.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$ . His family are Frank A., Edith L. and Hattie May. He is a prominent republican, a deacon of the Sublette Baptist church, quartermaster sergeant of the 12th I.N.G. and withal an intelligent, unassuming gentleman.

CHAS. H. INGALS, farmer, Sublette, son of Charles F. and Sarah (Hawkins) Ingals, was born March 11, 1846, in Lee county, Illinois, and was brought up to farming. Besides going to the common schools he took a partial course in the normal school at Normal, Illinois. He enlisted at Dixon in 1862, but was rejected because he was too young and too small. In the fall of 1863 he entered Co. A., 75th Ill. Inf., went with his regiment to Tennessee, from Chattanooga to Atlanta, was with Sherman at the capture of Atlanta, came back with Thomas to Tennessee, was in the engagements at Franklin and Spring Hill, November 30, and at Nashville in December 1864. Mr. Ingals was then detailed by the medical directory to the 1st division of the 4th Army Corps, was transferred to the 21st Ill. reg. in June 1865; went to New Orleans the next month, and thence, in August 1865, to San Antonio, Texas, where he remained until he received orders to be mustered out. From January till June 10, 1865 he was in the office of the medical directory. He was afterward in the provost guards, 4th corps army headquarters, and the provost marshal general's office at St. Antonio, which position he held until the expiration of his service, December 25, 1865. In May, 1865, Mr. Ingals received a sergeant's commission. He was in the engagements at Kenesaw Mountain, Peach Tree Creek, Atlanta, Nashville, Franklin, and others. He is now captain of Co. F., 12th Inf. Illinois national guards (see Lee county guards), also commander of Lee county post No. 65 of G.A.R., headquarters at Amboy. Mr. Ingals is a republican, and belongs to the order of Masons. His farm of 200 acres is in Sec. 10. His residence is about half a mile from the village of Sublette, and was built in 1870 at a cost of \$3,400. Previous to his settlement here he was engaged in mercantile business at Rocky Falls, Whitesides county. Was married in March 1871, to Mary I. Morse, who came with her parents from Massachusetts to Illinois in 1869. She was born in Natick, Massachusetts, December 10, 1854. The offspring of this marriage are five children: Herbert F., Grace M., Neva May., Walter F. and Fred. M. Mr. Ingals is a thrifty farmer and an enterprising citizen. He has an attractive home with beautiful environments, and seems to enjoy life.

SHERMAN L. HATCH, father of Charles L. Hatch, the subject of this sketch, was born in Cavendish, Windsor county, Vermont, in 1807. He was the son of Sherman and Caroline (Lovell) Hatch, of the same place. His grandfather on the father's side lived in Hartford, Connecticut, and his mother's father was one of the earliest settlers in Cavendish, Vermont. His father owned a small farm and was a hatter. Sherman was the oldest of twelve children, of which only he and four sisters are living. He received what was then called a common school education, and in the spring of 1837 came west to Chicago, thence to Milwaukee, and from there to Janesville, Wisconsin. From there, with seven others, he went down the Rock river in a boat, stopping at Rockford, Dixon and Prophetstown. Mr. Hatch remained over night in Iowa, opposite the mouth of the Rock, and then next day started up the river to Dixon, and arrived there in June. From there he went to Charles F. Ingals', who had settled in Lee Center in 1836. On his way he stopped at the house of Mr. Whittaker, Lee Center, the only home seen since he left Dixon. Mr. Hatch came to Sublette, Sec. 7, in the southwest part of which was an abandoned claim and an unfinished log house, which he occupied and completed. He returned in the fall of 1837 to Vermont, and married Lucy Brown in the spring of 1838. Returning to his claim he found it occupied. He appealed to the squatter tribunal; the decision was that he (Hatch) should pay \$150 to the occupant in consideration of tillage and other improvements made during his absence; or if Hatch chose, the occupant might pay him \$125 and retain possession. Our subject paid the \$150, and reentered his humble dwelling. During the summer of 1838 mother earth was the first floor of his cabin; the second, consisting of split rails covered with corn stalks, was for company. Mr. Hatch claimed a half-section of prairie and 240 acres of timber in May and Sublette townships; but when the land was sold he bought only an eighty (in May town), having loaned considerable sums of money which he could not collect. He has since bought the W.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of N.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 18, Sublette, and soon after the E.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the same, where, in 1846, he built a 16 $\times$ 20 frame house, and in 1852 he built a brick house and a large barn; the lumber for the latter was all hauled from Chicago. Mr. Hatch lost his wife in November 1876; all of their four children are married: Harriet L. (Mrs. Gardner) was born December 1839; Caroline L. (Mrs. James Garrett), December 1840; Julia A. (Mrs. J. W. Latta, Dixon), December 1845; Charles L., 1848. The latter was married in 1874, to Catharine Barse, of Detroit, Michigan. Their family are Lucy M., born April 1875, and Harry L., May 1877. Mr. C. L. Hatch has recently bought land in Secs. 17 and 18, adding to the large tract only partially described in this sketch. He taught

school two winters; he is now living on the homestead. He is a deacon of the Sublette Congregational church; his wife is a Unitarian. His father is a republican, and in an early day was a captain in the Vermont militia.

JOEL COOK, farmer, Sublette, was born in Otsego county, New York, in 1828, and was raised a farmer. He came west with his people in 1845, learned the carpenter and shoemaker trades in Lee county, though he had worked at the latter a little in the east. He went overland to the Far West in 1850, was in California and Oregon nearly four years, came back, and married Emily Strickland, of Pennsylvania, in the fall of 1855, her parents having come to Lee county in 1849. Mr. Cook bought eighty acres of land from his brother John for \$1,700, and went to farming, the next spring, in the S.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 8. He built a 16 $\times$ 24 house. He has since purchased 110 acres in Secs. 5 and 9, at a cost of \$4,000. In 1875 Mr. Cook put up a house at a cost of \$1,800. His family are Lacon, born in 1863, and Katie, born 1871. His wife belongs to the Methodist Episcopal church. He is a republican and a Mason, but was formerly an Odd-Fellow. In an early day he used to go to Chicago much with an ox team; once he was gone forty days. In the meantime, however, he took some emigrants out to Iowa. Daniel Cook, father of the above, was born in New York, on Van Rensselaer's grant, in 1802. He was the second in a family of seven. He had five uncles killed in the revolution. His parents, Simeon and Polly (Baldwin) Cook, moved to Pennsylvania when he was three years old. He went to school only about two weeks, but was taught at home. He married, in 1823, Phoebe Rouse, and lived in Pennsylvania until he came west. Their family consists of four children living: Samuel, born 1824; Joel, born 1826; John J., born 1830; Lydia, born 1836. On his arrival in Lee county with his family in 1845, Mr. Cook, during the first winter, lived with Daniel Trip at Inlet creek; the next year on Thomas Fessenden's farm, after which he settled on the S.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 8. For this John J. Cook had a warrant, having been a soldier in the Mexican war. John is now living in Council Bluffs, Iowa. Samuel was in the late rebellion, and received injuries at Perryville, from which he has never recovered, though he was not in the engagement. He is now living with his family in Cherokee county, Kansas, and is engaged in farming. Mr. Cook and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church. The former is an Odd-Fellow, and the latter belongs to the Rebeccas. Mr. Cook was an old-time democrat, but voted for Abe Lincoln, and has since voted the republican ticket. He can remember seeing the soldiers of the war of 1812, in which was one of his cousins. He and his wife are now living with their daughter, Mrs. Scofield, in Sublette.



WM. W. IRELAND, farmer, Sublette, was born in Harrison county, western Virginia, in 1826. He is the son of Jonathan and Eliza (Boring) Ireland, both of Maryland. He was brought up to farming, his father's occupation, and received a common-school education. His people moved to Clinton county, Ohio, when he was a year old; here they lived a few years; thence to Bureau county, Illinois, where his father bought a claim. William Ireland came to Sublette in 1850, and bought of Stiles and Eustace for \$130, a warrant for the S.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 23. The same year he bought twenty acres of timber. He now owns 215 acres of land, having bought the last in 1876. For several years Mr. Ireland lived with his brother on the N.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 23. He built on his own land in 1857, was married in the fall of 1856 to Sarah Ver-trees, who was born in Indiana in 1833. They have had seven children, five of whom are living: Theodore F., born September 1857; Ida E., born December 1858; Della J., born August 1860; Miriam A., born March 1862; Fay, born September 1865 (died April 1880); Willie, born March 1864 (deceased); Chas. A., born 1868. In politics Mr. Ireland is a liberal republican. Mrs. Ireland is a member and officer of the Sublette Methodist Episcopal church. She taught school in an early day in the vicinity of Knox Grove, named after her mother's people, who were early settlers there. Her great-grandfather Knox came from Scotland, and settled in North Carolina. Her father's father was in the war of 1812. Her mother's grandfather (Brooks) was all through the revolution. John Knox, her uncle, when above fifty years old went with three sons and a son-in-law from Lee county, Missouri, into the federal army of the rebellion. He died in the hospital at Nashville. One of the boys, wounded at Allatoona, Georgia, went home, and was replaced by his youngest brother. None of the other four ever returned from the battle-fields.

EMERSON W. PATTEN, railroad agent, Sublette, was born September 25, 1826, in Greenwich, Hampshire county, Massachusetts. He is the youngest of four children of Calvin and Laura (Warrener) Patten, Mrs. R. H. Millen, of Amboy, being the eldest. His father was from Connecticut; his mother was born in Massachusetts. There is a tradition that three Patten brothers came from Scotland very early in the history of our country, one landing near Boston, one near New York, and the other in Rhode Island. "Great Uncle Billy" Patten was a revolutionary hero, and until he was almost a hundred walked annually to Taunton, Massachusetts, a distance of eight miles, to draw his pension. Emerson Patten was raised a farmer, and lived in his native town till 1853 when he came west to Amboy. Here he dealt in books and jewelry, but chiefly in real estate, losing heavily in the latter business in 1858. He lived in Amboy till 1873; was one year



in Freeport, Illinois, and in 1874 came to Sublette, where he has since been employed by the Illinois Central Railroad Company. He was married in the fall of 1859 to Lucy E. Morse, born in New York. Three children are the fruit of their marriage: Alfred E., born December 1864; Calvin E., November 1866; Lena, September 1860. Mr. Patten is a Mason and a republican, and since he was nineteen years old he has belonged to the Congregational church.

ALFRED L. WILDER, merchant, Sublette, was born in Conway, Franklin county, Massachusetts, in 1825. He is the son of Joshua and Lavina (Long) Wilder, of the same county, and his mother's mother was a revolutionary pensioner. He was raised a farmer, staying with his father till he was twenty years old; and was educated at the Shelburne Falls Academy, Shelburne, Franklin county, in which town both his parents were born, and he lived from his early youth. In 1854 Mr. Wilder came to Chicago; he clerked one year in Putnam county, where he was married to Mrs Elvira Hewitt, of Franklin county, Massachusetts, born in 1826. In 1854 he bought land in Iowa. In 1855 he settled in Sublette, and built a store. Mr. Wilder is now doing a large business, carrying a stock of about \$10,000. He occupies the store began in 1855, to which he has added from time to time, the last improvement in 1877, and which is now worth about \$3,000. His house was built in 1865 or 1866 at a cost of \$2,500. His children are: Wm. A., born 1856; Nellie M., 1858, married T. F. Ireland, son of W. W. Ireland, and is now living in Mills county, Iowa; Raymond A., 1862. Both sons are working with their father in his business, a general dry-goods, grocery, boot and shoe trade. William is married. Mr. and Mrs. Wilder, the parents, are members of the Baptist church. Mrs. A. L. Wilder's father, Horace Benton, a native of Massachusetts, who has lived in Sublette since 1855, is in his eighty-sixth year, and possesses remarkable mental and physical vigor for one so old.

Mrs. HARRIET L. GARDNER, daughter of Sherman L. Hatch, and widow of Dr. Francis B. Gardner, was born on the homestead in December 1839. She went to the common school but three months; was sent to Lee Center and Janesville, Wisconsin, to school, and completed her education at a private school in West Chester county, New York. She taught school a few terms, and was married to Mr. Gardner in 1861. He had received his education at the Bridgewater, Massachusetts Normal school, and was a graduate from the Cincinnati Eclectic Medical School. He afterward graduated from a homeopathic school in Cleveland, Ohio. Mr. Gardner was born in February 1822, in Swansea, Massachusetts. His father was a sea-captain, and Francis was the youngest but one in a family of ten. He settled in Sublette in 1861. He had been in California most of the time since 1849,

working mines or practicing medicine, having returned three times from that country. In 1863 he bought from Elder Morrison the house where his family are living in the village of Sublette, a little west of the Baptist church. At that time he purchased two lots, since increased to five acres of farm land. His heirs now own in May and Sublette townships to the amount of 160 acres. Two boys and a girl are the fruit of his marriage: Seraphine, born July 1862; Frank, March 1864; Charles, November 1865. In November, 1880, the doctor met a cruel and unexpected death; he was tossed by a bull and fell on the back of his head, from the effect of which he died the third day after the accident. He was a hearty, rather stout man, and had never experienced any sickness worth mention. He and his wife were Episcopalians, though the latter recently united with the Congregational church, there being no Episcopal church in Sublette. He joined the Masons about a year before he died; he was a brother of Dr. Charles Gardner, an early settler in Nachusa township.

FRANK THOMPSON, hardware merchant, Sublette, was born in La Salle county, Illinois, in 1853. His father, John B., was born in Ohio in 1825; his mother, Clementine Eastman, in Maine in 1822. They came west in 1844, lived about a year in Bureau county, then settled in La Salle county, Ophir township, where Mr. Thompson took up a claim. In 1853 he took a contract to grade a part of the Illinois Central railroad between Amboy and Sublette; he came to Sublette in 1867. Frank Thompson is one of a family of three boys and two girls. He was raised a farmer, and was graduated from the Valparaiso (Indiana) Commercial School. For a time he was a clerk in Amboy; went with his eldest brother, in the spring of 1875, to California, where they worked a mine. Frank came back in the winter of 1876-7, and began in the hardware business in Sublette in 1878, under the firm name of F. A. Thompson & Co. He now has a stock of \$2,500. Mr. Thompson was made postmaster at Sublette, February 1881. He is a Baptist, and a member of the Lee county guards. He was married October 28, 1880, to Stella S., daughter of James Dexter, and sister of Mrs. William Wilder.

PRESCOTT BARTLETT, farmer, Sublette, was born in Conway, Franklin county, Massachusetts, August 19, 1821. His father, born in 1789, was a tanner by trade, and raised a company during the war of 1812. His mother, Narcissa Robinson, was born 1787. Mr. Bartlett came west in 1844, to Du Page county, Illinois, and soon after to Sublette, taking a claim of a quarter-section on Sec. 20, a part of which is now owned by H. C. Chapman. After living here about five years he went to Bureau county and bought a farm. He now owns and lives upon the E.  $\frac{1}{2}$  Sec. 17, Sublette, having bought it in 1850 from

William Erskine for \$500. In 1868 he built a fine residence of Batavia stone at a cost of \$12,000. Having passed through Texas and Arkansas in 1855, he became convinced that war was imminent; he studied cavalry tactics in the winter of 1860, and in the following spring began to raise a cavalry company. He took several horses from his own farm, giving one to a hired man as an inducement for him to enlist. Mr. Bartlett enlisted in June 1861; was sworn into service August 7, and received a captain's commission in Co. C, 7th Ill. Cav. The company, when mustered, numbered about ninety-eight, about twenty-five or thirty of whom were from Sublette; the rest chiefly from Mendota, Amboy, and Lee Center. They went first into Missouri, thence through Kentucky and Tennessee, early in 1862. In September 1862 the 7th cavalry was encamped at Tuscumbia, Alabama, at which time Co. C was detached as special escort to Gen. John M. Palmer, in which service they continued until January 1864. They were in all the hard fighting of the Rosecrans' campaign, the battle of Stone River being their first general engagement. They did gallant service at Missionary Ridge, and were in much skirmishing, especially at and near Nashville. Capt. Bartlett was six weeks president of a military commission at Memphis. That he was not promoted during his service was from no lack of merit. He escaped promotion more than once through accidental circumstances, over which he had no control. To his worth as a true soldier many freely testify. He was married January 4, 1849, to Caroline Whitney, born in Warren county, Ohio (her father was from Maine, her mother, Ohio). Of their eight children four are living, the others having died young: Silas Wilton, born March 1853; Eugene P., born March 1858; Howard, born November 1865; Cora May, born March 1869. Wilton, was admitted to the bar in May 1881. Eugene is a master penman. Both have attended school at Normal, Illinois, a considerable time. Mr. Bartlett has been a stirring, industrious man and has seen much of the world. He has traveled widely in the purchase and sale of horses, having gone to Boston and Providence several times, for the latter purpose. In an early day he was elected constable, and was a deputy under sheriff Campbell at the time of the famous "banditti" prosecutions. He is a Mason and a staunch republican. Mr. Bartlett has always been a generous, public spirited man, identifying himself with every progressive movement. But for lack of space many an interesting anecdote might be related illustrative of his enterprise in civil life and his willingness to assume responsibility during his military career.

EDWARD FESSENDEN, farmer, Sublette, was born April 4, 1839, in Lee county. The Fessendens were among the very early settlers of



the Massachusetts colony. His father, Thomas Fessenden, was born in Fitzburg, New Hampshire, February 1, 1805, and was raised a farmer, being the son of William and Rebecca Fessenden, whose family consisted of three sons and four daughters. One of the latter, Mrs. Joel Jewett, settled with her husband on Sec. 18, a few years after Thomas and his family settled in Sublette. Mr. and Mrs. Jewett are both dead. In 1830 or 1831 Thomas Fessenden married Sarah Pearsons, born June 13, 1804. With his brother-in-law, Addison G. Bragg, he came west in 1834, passing through Chicago, Peru, Illinois, and down the Illinois river to St. Louis, returning in the fall of the same year. In 1837 with his wife, three children, and his brother William, he came west again, directly to Lee county. They lived three months on the Blunt place, in Amboy township; thence to Sublette, where they settled, William on Sec. 7, where John H. Long lives, and lived there till about 1852, when he sold to J. B. Wyman. Thomas settled on Sec. 8, and lived there till 1869. Selling out to his sons, he went to Missouri for his health, and thence after three years to Santa Barbara, California, where he now resides. Of the family of Thomas Fessenden but four of eleven are now living. Three died in infancy. The names of the others are Frederick A., born December 20, 1830 (died at the homestead December 7, 1862); George F., January 24, 1833; Frances J., December 1, 1835 (deceased November 16, 1867); Edward, April 4, 1839; Austin, October 7, 1842 (died June 22, 1862); Emeline and Caroline, twin sisters, May 24, 1844 (Emeline died February 5, 1866); Warren G., December 14, 1846. George is living with his wife and two daughters in Kansas, whence he went from Lee county in 1878. Caroline (Mrs. Benj. Dexter) is living in Santa Barbara, California. All of the boys, except the youngest, served their country in the late rebellion. Warren entered the 104th Ill. Vols., in the one-hundred-days service. Edward and George enlisted in Co. E. 75th Ill., September 1862. George was with this company until he was mustered out, June 12, 1865. He was in the fighting at Lookout Mountain and Missionary Ridge, with Sherman through Georgia to the sea, and around to Richmond. Edward was transferred to the Veteran Reserve Corps, July 1863. Was at Elmira and Buffalo, New York, and afterward, except two months, was at Camp Douglas, Chicago, until he was mustered out, July 1865. The subject of this article was married February, 1862, to Harriet E. Dexter, youngest daughter of John Dexter, the first settler in Amboy township. Their family consists of three children living: Thomas E., born September 1862 (deceased January 1863); Francis D., born August 1867; James H., born January 1871; Stella, born July 1873. Mr. and Mrs. Fessenden are members of the Congregational church. Mr. Fessenden sold his farm, the old homestead, in the spring of 1881,



and is going to California to reside. He is the last of the family in Sublette, and like all the rest is a republican. He will be greatly missed by his neighbors and friends, who have long known him as an upright and conscientious man.

WARREN CLARKE, carpenter, Sublette, was born in Medfield, Norfolk county, Massachusetts, February 22, 1825. His father, Jacob Clarke, was born in 1792 and died in 1865; he was of Scotch ancestry. His mother, Cynthia Ann Morse, born in 1795, is still living. His father was a fifer in the war of 1812; he was a first cousin of the celebrated Lowell Mason, of Boston, to whose singing-school Warren went when a youth. Warren Clarke learned the carpenter's trade when eighteen years of age, having previously worked at shoemaking, his father's trade. He came west in 1854 to Mendota, Illinois; worked five years in a foundry there, and, except two years in the insurance business, he has since followed carpentering in Mendota and Sublette, having moved to the village of Sublette in 1877. While in Mendota he did many first-class jobs, building the west side school-house, besides many of the finest stores and dwellings. He has been a Mason since 1862, and belongs to the order of I.O.O.F. He has always been a republican. Mr. Clarke has been twice married: first, 1849, in Vermont, to Julietta L. Aldrich, by whom he had two children: a son, born February 1852 (deceased 1854), and a daughter, January 1857 (now Mrs. Allen, Mendota, Illinois). In 1876 he married his second wife, Melphia Stearns, of Sublette, his first having died in 1873. The fruits of this second marriage are two daughters: Mary, born June 15, 1877, and Lina Stearns, December 1878.

JOHN D. TOURTILLOTT, farmer, Sublette, was born June 26, 1827, in the town of Howland, Penobscot county, Maine. His father, Thomas Tourtillott, born in Orino, Maine, April 1786, was of French descent. His mother, Hannah Douglass, was born in Hancock county, Maine, April 1797, and was of Scotch ancestry. His grandfather was a "Revolutioner." His parents were married in Howland, Maine, September 20, 1826. This was the second marriage of Thomas Tourtillott, Charlotte Inman, by whom he had eight children, being his first wife. By his second wife he had seven children, of whom John is the eldest. In 1839 the Tourtillotts came west in two wagons drawn by three horses. There were fourteen in the company, and the journey occupied seventy days. They stopped at La Moille, Bureau county, and in the following year, 1840, came to Sublette and settled on Sec. 31. Here the senior Tourtillotts lived till 1868, when they ceased housekeeping and went to live among their children. Hannah Tourtillott died March 19, 1878, at the residence of her son-in-law, Joseph Hodges, two miles north of Sublette. She had reached the

ripe age of nearly eighty-one years; she had seen her family grow up and settle, some near her and others in Kansas, Iowa, California and elsewhere. She survived only one of her children, a son who died October, 1876. She was a devoted christian mother, having experienced religion at the age of seventeen. "She possessed an extraordinary self-sacrificing and sympathetic spirit for her family." In the following year, December 8, 1879, she was followed by her aged companion, who, in the ninety-fourth year of his life, went to meet her in the "better land." When twenty-three years of age he united with the Methodist Episcopal church, and "lived for many years an active and zealous member, enforcing both by word and example the holy religion he professed." John Tourtillott, the only one of his family left in Lee county, received a common school education, and was married October 5, 1856, to Mary Jane Dexter (deceased October 1878). Four children are the fruits of their wedded life: John Fremont, born July 1857 (deceased October 1858); Thomas A., September 1858; Ella Mary, July 1862; and a deceased infant, born October 1864. He went with his family to California in 1869, with some view of remaining there, but returned in 1871. He is now living on the homestead on Sec. 31. In politics he was an old-time whig, but he has been a republican since the organization of that party. He and his family are members of the Congregational church.

NEWTON STANARD, farmer, Sublette, was born in Madison county, New York, November 1819. His father, Libeous Stanard, born in Vermont, was a farmer. His mother, Luceba Fay, was born in Connecticut. They had a family of twelve, ten of whom are living. The father was in the war of 1812, and was at Sacket's Harbor some time in the fall of 1840. Libeous Stanard came west with his family in two covered wagons to Perkins' Grove, Bureau county, to which Newton and his brother had come the year before. The family were six weeks on their way. They bought 160 acres of land, timber and prairie, from the widow of J. Kendall, some of which they afterward entered. In 1842 the mother and one son died with typhoid fever. The father survived till October 1859. Newton Stanard was married in November 1844, to Emily Reniff, who was born in New York state in 1823. Her parents, when she was an infant, moved back to Massachusetts, whence they came west. In the spring of 1847 Mr. Stanard bought from John Dement the S.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 19, Sublette, and settled there. He hauled lumber from Chicago and built a house  $24 \times 30$ , with an addition  $16 \times 16$ . This was then one of the best in that vicinity, and is still in good condition. His family are: Charles, born February 1846; Ora, December 1852; Irvin, February 1857; Laura E., September 1859; Adella, May 1861. They have all enjoyed good edu-

educational advantages, Ora being a graduate from the college at Naper-ville, Illinois. Charles enlisted, October 1864, in the 75th Ill., Co. E, and was mustered out October 15, 1865. He was in the Hood campaign in Tennessee, and saw his first fighting at Nashville. During the latter part of his service he was in Texas. He is married and living in Sublette; has two children. All but one of the family of Newton Stanard belong to the Baptist church. Of the first family mentioned, three own property in Bureau county, two of whom are living there. The rest are widely scattered.

SETH F. BAIRD, farmer, Sublette, was born September 1846; son of Daniel and Charlotte (Field) Baird, early settlers in Sublette township. He received a common schooling and took a commercial course at Aurora, Illinois; was married June 12, 1870, to Amanda S. Thompson, of Lee county, who had come from West Virginia with her people the previous year. She died July 27, 1873, leaving two children: Carrie A. and Robert Daniel (deceased infant). Mr. Baird was again married, February 4, 1875, to Martha A. Rees, of Indiana. She has given birth to one child: William M., born May 1876. The family are now living on the old homestead on Sec. 19. They are Methodists.

CHAS. D. HUBBARD, painter, Sublette, was born in Lee county, May 4, 1846, and is the youngest son of Royal Prescott Hubbard, who was born in Sunderland, Mass., September 1805. The mother of the latter, Lavinia Prescott, was one of a family of Prescotts noted in American history, and who trace their lineage to a certain James Prescott, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, of England. Moses Hubbard was the father of Royal P. Hubbard, who is the eldest of a family of thirteen, only four of whom are living. In 1827 he sailed from New York in company with forty-one young men from Connecticut and Massachusetts, and settled in Macon, Georgia, where he engaged in mercantile business till 1835, when he had to flee for his life, having too freely expressed his sentiments in regard to the atrocities of slavery. This was the first abolition excitement there, and the mob surrounded the home of our subject a few minutes after he left it and fled to Charleston and out of the South, of course losing all his property there. In 1838 he came to Princeton, Illinois, and in 1844 to Sublette, settling on Sec. 17. In 1842 he married Mary (Boring) Berkeley, a widow with four children, by whom he had four more, all of whom are living. Their mother died May 13, 1881. When the rebellion broke out Mr. Hubbard, having seen all the horrors of slavery, told his sons to "pitch in and clean them out." All of them, four in number, went into the service, and the father also offered his life, but was rejected because of physical disability. Chas. Hubbard enlisted in the 75th Ill., Co. E, Captain Frost; was in the battle of Perryville. In



this engagement Co. E lost eleven killed, twenty-six wounded and two prisoners. He was in the fighting at Stone river, and under Hooker at Lookout Mountain; was at Crawfish Springs as a flank in the battle of Chickamauga; was at Missionary Ridge, and with Sherman to a little below Atlanta. Came back with Thomas to Tennessee, and was in the fighting at Nashville and Franklin. He was mustered out June 12, 1865, without a wound, and having won the reputation of being a splendid soldier, being especially noted for his intrepidity and love for foraging. He was married August 26, 1871, to Lida K. Anderson, of Dixon. Their issue are: Louis P., March 1873; Mary G., August 1875; John, June 1878. Mr. Hubbard is living near the village of Sublette.

JAMES BLACK, farmer, Sublette, was born January 1823, in the province of Leinster, Ireland. His parents, John and Charlotte (Pilkington) Black, had a family of seven children, and James Black was educated for the ministry of the English Episcopal church at Trinity College, Dublin, leaving that institution when he was about to take the degree of A.B. About 1843 his father sold his property in Ireland to go to Australia, but in consequence of a wreck off Cape Good Hope he returned to his native land with his family and three or four thousand pounds, the remnant of his property. Remaining a few years in Ireland, he came to America with all his family except the eldest son, and settled in New Jersey, where he and his wife both died, and where their youngest daughter is now living. James Black was married, 1850, in New Jersey, to Sarah Wynne, by whom he has had ten children, eight of whom are living: William, born January 1853, Lottie (now Mrs. Levi Mead, Astoria county, Iowa), Susan, John, Jane (deceased, aged eleven years), Sarah, James, Hattie, George (deceased, infant), Edith. Mr. Black came to Lee Center township about 1853, and in 1860 to Sec. 1, Sublette, he and his brother buying 182 acres in the N.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of same. Here he has since lived. The family are members of the Congregational church.

C. M. MILLER, butter and cheese maker, Sublette, was born in the Rhine province, Prussia, November 28, 1854. He was the eldest child of K. and Anne (Michels) Miller, who with their family came to Winfield, Du Puge county, Illinois, in 1864. The subject of this notice received a common education in the English and German schools. Mr. Miller has been thoroughly schooled in the cheese and butter business, having been employed by several of the best manufacturers in the famous Fox river region. In 1873 he began in La Fox, Kane county, under Potter & Baker, and afterward in the same vicinity for H. L. Ford. He was subsequently employed by Martin Switzer at St. Charles, same county, making the first cheese in his factory there, and



also in Batavia by H. A. Bogardus, wholesale dealer in butter and cheese, Chicago, Illinois. Mr. Miller began to manufacture for himself in Cook county, Palatine Grove, thence to Sublette in the spring of 1881, buying the factory built by George Pulling. This establishment when completed will have cost about \$3,500. A boiler and engine have been put in and a milk pool is contemplated. Mr. Miller is making both butter and cheese, shipping chiefly to Chicago. He is governed in his sales by Elgin prices, and his business is steadily increasing and promises soon to be a leading industry.

OLIVER A. WOOD, farmer, Sublette, was born in Bolton, Massachusetts, June 1833, son of Amariah and Rachel (Atherton) Wood, born May, 1807, and February, 1811, respectively. Both of his parents are of English descent, his mother having descended from one of four brothers named Atherton who came to Massachusetts at an early period. Oliver Wood is the oldest and the only survivor in a family of four sons and three daughters. The latter all died young in the east; one son died an infant. The rest of the family, Oliver, George and Frank, received a good education for the times. In 1851 the family came to Sublette and settled on Sec. 30, where Oliver and his family are living with his parents. George was killed at Chickasaw Bayou, near Vicksburg, December 1863. Frank died in the hospital at Nashville, January 1864. Oliver Wood enlisted in the 75th Ill., Co. E, in August 1862. He was seriously wounded in the battle of Perryville, and was mustered out January 8, 1863, having been confined in hospital from October, 1862, till January, 1863, at Perryville and Louisville, Kentucky, and New Albany, Indiana. His wound was a serious one, the ball passing entirely through his abdomen, and from its effects he has suffered more or less ever since. Mr. Wood married, August 1863, Climena Hubbard, daughter of Royal Prescott Hubbard. Their sons, George Frank, born October 1865, and Leon A., October 1869, constitute their family, having lost their two daughters in infancy. Mr. Wood is a Mason and an Odd-Fellow, and with his family belongs to the Congregational church. He owns the homestead of 120 acres.

JOHN C. SPIELMANN, farmer, Mendota, was born in Hesse Darmstadt, Germany, March 9, 1830. His parents are John and Mary (Sinner) Spielmann, and he is the only survivor of their four children. In 1847 he came via New York directly to Lee county with his father and mother, who are now living with him. They settled on Sec. 34, buying a claim of 30 acres from a Mr. Kenney. They now own a valuable farm in Secs. 34 and 35, and in Bureau county opposite. In 1871 they built a fine residence on Sec. 35, on the Chicago road. In 1858 Mr. Spielmann married Julia Naumann; they have no children, but they have reared two adopted ones: Julia Kinnenberger, who was

married in 1879, to Julius Alber, now living in Iowa; and George Higgins, aged fifteen years. John Spielmann, jr., is a self-made man, having received the most of his education in the German tongue. From 1854 until 1869 he was a circuit preacher in the church of the E.A.U.A., but quit these duties on account of bodily infirmities. He has preached in Cook, La Salle, Tazewell, Peoria, Kankakee and other counties in this vicinity. He is a man of unimpeachable character, and is better known in Bureau than in Lee county.

JACOB RICHERT, farmer, Mendota, was born in Alsace, Germany, November 1835; son of John and Anna C. (Staub) Richert, and is the fifth in a family of four boys and three girls. In 1854 he came to New Orleans with Peter Richert, his eldest brother, thence to Lee county in the fall of 1854, stopping in Indiana during the summer. Jacob worked around for several years, and in the spring of 1861 bought 80 acres in Sec. 36 from John Fry, jr., at \$21 per acre. In the same year he enlisted in Co. B, 52d Ill. Inf. This regiment was mustered at Geneva, Illinois, and departed late in the fall of 1861 for St. Louis, thence to St. Joseph, where they staid about two months. From here they were sent to Tennessee, by the way of Quincy and Cairo, Illinois, crossing the Mississippi at Quincy on the ice. The regiment came up at Fort Donelson just as the rebels surrendered, and were under Grant at Shiloh, losing there 260 of their number in killed and wounded. Previously Mr. Richert had been detailed as a guard with prisoners to Springfield, Illinois. He was in the battle of Corinth, where his regiment staid till they were sent to Pulaski, Tennessee, in the early winter of 1863. From here Mr. Richert was sent home to recruit, remaining home five months and returning with as many recruits. He reëntered the 52d in the Atlanta campaign in June 1864, and was engaged in twenty days, hard fighting and skirmishing. He was mustered out at Rome, Georgia, October 1864, not having received a scratch during his faithful service. In December, 1864, he married Mary Butz, of May township, and seven children now gladden their home: Frederick, born December 1865; Mary, born February 1868; George B., born April 1870; Sarah, born August 1873; Clara, born September 1875; Emma, born January 1878; Simon, born September 1880. Mr. Richert now owns the S.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 36, having bought the west half of the same from Michael Bitner at \$45 per acre. There are good buildings on the place, and its owner is now enabled to enjoy the fruit of his toil. He and his family are members of the Evangelical church. Mr. Richert is a republican. His father has been to Illinois three times, once remaining four years, and returned to his native land for the last time in 1876, and died in

Baden while on the way. For many years he had lived among his children, and had a strong attachment for the sea.

CHRISTIAN BIESTER, farmer, Sublette, was born in Germany, Hanover county, December 1831. His parents, Fred and Caroline (Weber) Biester, had a family of three boys and one girl. His father was seven years in the German army. Our subject came to America in 1855, via Baltimore to Chicago, where he stopped two years; thence to Lee county, Illinois. Here he worked out for several years as a farm-hand. In 1867 he bought eighty acres in Sec. 8. He has been industrious and careful, and now has the deeds for 236 acres of valuable land, upon which he erected a fine dwelling in 1873. He went back to Germany in the fall of 1861, and was there married, March 1862, to Dora Miller, whom he had known in childhood. They arrived in Chicago in March 1862. Their family are: Louis, born January 1863; Henry, November 1865; Ernest, November 1867; Dora, December 1869; Mary, June 1871; Anna, May 1873; August, December 1874. The family belonged to the Lutheran church. Mr. Biester is the only one of his family that came to America. Mrs. Biester's mother came to America in 1868. The latter has a son in Dakota, a daughter in Minnesota, and three daughters, all married, living in Lee county.

JOHN H. SCHWOUB, farmer, Sublette, was born in Hesse Darmstadt, Germany, May 1, 1813. He was six years in the German army. In 1847 he came to America with his family of a wife and five children. He settled on Sec. 34 in the town of Sublette, and now owns a farm of 170 acres there. He first bought thirty acres on which was a log house, on the north side of the "Chicago road," on land now owned by Conrad Spielman. When twenty-five years of age he married Margaret K  hl. Their children are: George, Conrad (enlisted in Co. B, 52d Ill. Vols., and was killed at Kenesaw Mountain, Georgia); Philip, Mary, Henry, Katherine, Eva and Margaret. George, Henry, Mary (Mrs. Reichart) and Margaret (Mrs. Boeler) are living in Clay county, Kansas, and Katherine (Mrs. Thomas Boettcher) in Mendota. Eva (Mrs. Baoer) is now living with her husband on the homestead. Schwoub belongs to the Evangelical church, and his life shows that he is a true disciple of Christ. In politics he was an old-time democrat; but voted for Fremont and Lincoln, and has since been a republican.

FREDERICK OBERHELMAN, grain-buyer, Sublette, was born in Warren county, Missouri, in 1844. His father, Frederick, and his mother, Christine (Knoepker), came to Missouri, the former in 1833, the latter in 1838. Frederick was the eldest in a family of eleven children. His father was a farmer and he was reared to the same business. His grandfather was a German soldier, and was in the battles of Leipsic, Waterloo, and others. Mr. Oberhelman was sent to school but little,



Ever Yours  
Riley Paddock





in all not more than twelve months, and never to an English school. During the war of the rebellion he was five years in the Missouri State Militia and Home Guards. In 1866 he married Mary E. Betz, daughter of John Betz, an early settler in Sublette. None of their children have lived; they have one adopted daughter. Mr. Oberhelman began farming in 1867 on Sec. 22, and continued in the same till 1871, when he went into the business of buying and shipping grain in the village of Sublette. In 1874 he built an elevator, which with his engine cost him \$5,000. He also deals in coal and lumber, and till recently dealt in live-stock. His business is prosperous, he having paid out as much as \$100,000 in one year. He and his wife belong to the Evangelical Lutheran church. In politics he is non-partisan.

ELIJAH AUSTIN, farmer, Sublette, was born in upper Canada, January 1820. His father, Norman Austin, and his mother, Sarah Landers, were natives of Connecticut. His ancestors were "Revolutioners," and his father served in the war of 1812. In the fall of 1837 Elijah Austin went to Sandusky, Ohio, thence with wagon to the present site of Galesburg, Illinois, passing through Aurora and Monmouth, then only the germs of towns; lived in Knox county till 1840, when he went back east. Returning to Knox county, he lived there till 1846, thence to Princeton. In 1849 he made a claim on Secs. 17 and 18, of 152 acres. In 1859 he bought from Henry Hannon 80 acres formerly owned by Daniel Baird, who lived on the old La Salle and Grand De Tour road, where Mr. Austin now resides. The latter owns a large farm in Secs. 17, 18, 19, and a few acres in Sec. 20, besides a hundred acres in Sec. 30. In 1843 Mr. Austin married Sarah Burton, of Hancock county, Illinois. They have a family of seven children living. Abigail, born December 1843 (wife of Nelson Van Fleet, Kansas, son of an old settler in Aurora); Mary, born 1845 (Mrs. Joseph Doane, died in 1868); Burton, February 1848 (married October 1876, has two children and is farming in Sublette); Elizabeth, May 1850; Melissa, September 1852; Jane, March 1855; Frances A., September 1866; Minnie R., April 1871. The last two are by his second wife, Catherine Austin, to whom he was married September 1863. Elizabeth (Mrs. Blair) is living in Brooklyn township. In politics Mr. Austin is an ex-republican greenbacker, formerly a free-soiler. He is a Mason, a genial neighbor and a kind father.

SILAS D. RENIFF, farmer, Sublette, born 1816, in Tioga county, New York, is the son of Ephraim and Betsey (Wesson) Reniff, both born in Massachusetts. His grandfather on the father's side was a Scotchman. Ephraim Reniff was a farmer and had a family of eight children. In 1843 he came west, and settled on section 19, where Seth Baird lives. The following year Silas Reniff came out and claimed a half-section of

land, one half of which he afterward entered. This was a 160 in Sec. 20, where he now lives. He owns 240 acres of well improved land, upon which there are good buildings. In 1849 Mr. Reniff was married to Laura Angier, only sister of Thomas Angier. Their issue is a son, Ernest, born September 1855; he married Mary Chamberlain, May 1876, by whom he has two boys, Ernest and Laurie, born November, 1877, and June, 1880, respectively. Mr. Reniff has been a very energetic business man, and is now active for one of his age. For many years he has been a general stock dealer and he is now shipping to Chicago. For twenty-seven years he has assessed the town of Sublette, and has been twenty years school trustee. Before coming west he was eight years a teamster to Boston, driving an eight-horse team about a hundred miles to and from that city. Then and for many years after he was an athletic and daring man, and one with whom it was not safe to trifle. He is a staunch republican and a perfectly reliable man. His father died about 1855 and his mother a few years later.

THOMAS S. ANGIER, farmer and magistrate, Sublette, was born 1822, in Fitzwilliam, Cheshire county, New Hampshire; he is the son of Abel and Laura (Holmes) Angier, born 1797 and 1801 respectively. His grandparents were born in New England, and his great-grandfather Amidon was in the revolution. His mother died when he was eight years old, and his father seven years later. Thomas, the only son in a family of two children, received a common school education; was married in 1838, to Fannie, daughter of Benjamin B. and Grata (Whitney) Morse, who was born in New Hampshire in 1821. Her ancestors, Whitney and Morse were "Revolutioners," and the latter was in the war of 1812. Mr. Angier, with his wife and one child, came west to La Moille, Bureau county, Illinois, in 1840; thence to Sublette, Lee county, the following spring, settling on the N.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 31, having bought it the year before. Of a family of ten children only three survive. In the summer of 1861 his eldest sons, Abel, born in 1838, and Leander in 1841, enlisted in Co. D, 46th Ill. Vols. In the winter of 1861-2, before their regiment went south, both were taken sick with diphtheria. Though two others of the family died at this time, they recovered, and were with Co. D till the fall of 1862, when both were in the hospital at Memphis; there Leander died in September. Abel did not again enter the service, and died of consumption in 1873. Ambrose, third in the family, is married and living on the homestead. In 1874 Mr. Angier moved to the village of Sublette, where he has since lived. He is a man in whom the people have entire confidence, having held some office ever since the organization of the township. In 1851 he was elected justice of the peace, in

which capacity he has acted ever since. He has been eighteen years supervisor of Sublette township, and much of that time was chairman of the board of supervisors. Besides these he has held other offices; he is consequently well acquainted with the development of this township, and to him the writer is indebted for much valuable information. Mr. Angier is a republican and a Mason, and may be very appropriately styled "the oracle of Sublette."

PHILIP FAUBLE, farmer, Sublette, was born in Lee county in April 1851. His father, John Fauble, was an early settler in Sublette and acquired a large property. His mother is one of the largest tax-payers in the county. In October, 1877, Philip Fauble married Barbara Pope, of Bureau county. Their family: George L., born June 1879, and Katie, December 1880. He has a farm of 200 acres in Sec. 32. This is known as the William Tourtillott farm. In 1880 Mr. Fauble built a fine barn at a cost of about \$1,400. He has a good house and a large orchard. His wife owns a quarter-section in Brooklyn township. They are members of the Evangelical church. Our subject received a common school education; he is a strong republican and a man of pleasing address.

## AMBOY TOWNSHIP.

### SETTLEMENT.

A Frenchman named Filamalee is said to have been the first white settler in Palestine Grove and in the present limits of Amboy township. Some of the earlier settlers remember his shanty about a mile south of Rocky Ford, and have not forgotten the mortar made in a burr-oak stump in which he pounded his corn for bread, and which remained for a long time as a relic to mark the first pioneer settlement. He belonged to that unsettled class who were never content to live in any region except where savage dominion was weakening to dissolution, and civilized footsteps chased hard upon the departing race. He could not bear the sight of regular occupation and improvement, and as soon as the tide of immigration set in he moved farther away into the mediate solitude between the red and the white man. In his eulogy upon Daniel Boone the poet Byron spoke not less truly of all his congeners when he said,

"'Tis true, he shrank from men even of his nation,  
When they built up unto his darling trees;  
He mov'd some hundred miles off, for a station,  
Where there were fewer houses and more ease.  
The inconvenience of civilization  
Is, that you neither can be pleased, nor please.  
But where he met the individual man,  
He showed himself as kind as mortal can."



The first permanent settler was John Dexter, who emigrated from Canada in the spring of 1835, and made a claim on the north side of Palestine Grove, and on the N.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 13. Here he built a cabin about twelve feet square, and then went on as fast as he could to add other improvements to his home; in the meantime looking anxiously but waiting patiently for others to come into the neighborhood. It must not be thought that he was a solitary inhabitant; on the contrary, he had near neighbors east of him at Inlet Grove. But the spring of 1836 brought the second settler, and Dexter, it may be supposed, began to feel that this could not much longer be regarded as the frontier. The new arrival was James Doan and his young wife, now Mrs. O. J. Fish, of China township. He made his claim south of the Inlet, on the place now better known as the Joseph Lewis farm, from having been owned by the latter from 1845 till a recent date. He was from Berrien county, Michigan, but had been raised in Indiana. His father, John Doan, was a North Carolinian. The latter and his daughter Jemima came with his son, the trip being made by the family in a Pennsylvania wagon drawn by three yoke of oxen. James Doan had visited this place in October 1835, and selected his own as well as a claim for his father and another for his brother Joseph. After a patch of sod corn had been planted John Doan and his daughter returned to Michigan, and in the following autumn the whole family came to their new home. Until their arrival the days passed wearily, and the season was one crowded with painful discontent to Mrs. Doan, and for long weeks at a time she saw no other white person than her own husband. The Indian-trail from Council Bluffs to Chicago lay only a little way off to the south of their cabin, and the camping ground of these roving bands was on the Blunt farm. Large bodies of them often stopped there; and the Shabbona Indians came nearly as often into the neighborhood to hunt.

ANDREW BAINTER, brother-in-law to James Doan, arrived in the spring of 1837, and took the claim where Seneca Strickland lives, on the Sublette road. His second house, a frame dwelling, was the one which has been improved and is now occupied by Benjamin Treadwell. The next and most important addition to the infant community was Asa B. Searles, who arrived in October 1837, with a horse-team, from New York, and was accompanied from Peoria by Benjamin Wasson, another New Yorker, who had been here the year before and taken a claim on Secs. 14 and 15. Mr. Searles located the S.  $\frac{1}{2}$  Sec. 14, on which, several years later, he laid out the village of Binghamton. Nathan Meek was living in the vicinity of Rocky Ford as early as 1837. His name will recall to the old settlers many suspicious circumstances and an unsavory reputation, all suggesting the operations

of the banditti. His "corn-cracker," situated three miles down the stream, was the first mill for grinding in Lee county. He sometimes attempted to make flour, but it was always of execrable quality.

On Mr. Searle's first arrival he found a saw-mill in operation at Rocky Ford, owned by Timothy Perkins and Horace Bowen, and when he finally came with his family, on Christmas eve in the same year, it had become the property of a man named Lee. He kept it awhile and sold out to Mason; the latter died, and it passed into the hands of John Van Norman, from whom it was purchased in 1848 by F. R. Dutcher. A log-dam spanned the stream, and the mill was run by a "flutter" wheel. One Mitchell was millwright.

James Blair and his sons William, Winthrop, and Edwin were pioneers of 1837. The latter has the old homestead on Sec. 29. The same year John S. Sawyer and four sons erected a cabin south of the Illinois Central shops. Sawyer sold a part of his claim to Joseph Farwell in 1841, and the rest to Joseph Appleton.

Alexander Janes also became a resident, but the next year sold his claim to Chester S. Badger and moved to Bureau county, where he acquired wealth and an honorable reputation. Mr. Badger was from Broome county, New York, and came to Illinois and worked at mill-wrighting during the season of 1837, and returned home in the fall; the following year he and his son Simon settled in this township, and in 1839 Warren, another son, arrived, bringing the mother and her two daughters Sarah and Roena. In the autumn Warren returned to his native home, remaining there until 1842, when he came west again and resided in Amboy township until his death in 1861. Chester Badger, a younger son, drove through from New York alone with a two-horse team in 1840, and has been a resident here since. The Badgers located their homesteads about a mile and a half east of Amboy. Henry Badger came in 1849, and has always lived in Binghamton. The senior Badger brought hardwood lumber from Franklin Grove and built the first frame house in the settlement. A party consisting of John C. Church, Curtis Bridgman and his sons Curtis and Uriah, and Wm. Hunt, the three last unmarried men, arrived in midsummer of 1838. The senior Bridgman returned to Steuben county, New York, in the following autumn and brought the remainder of the family. Mr. Church selected a claim one mile south of Amboy, but in 1841 sold to Jacob Doan, who immigrated from Ohio that year, and secured another where he is now living, adjoining the northern limits of the city. Wm. Church settled here a little later the same season that his brother did; he lived in this vicinity until twenty years ago, when he removed to Iowa. The year 1838 must be credited with another valuable citizen in the person of Martin Wright, from the

Bay State, who lived in the remote northeast corner of the township. He was a large-hearted, liberal-minded, just man, and enjoyed in the highest degree the esteem and confidence of his fellow citizens. He served them as assessor, and many years as road commissioner, and died about a year ago. His widow survives. Harvey Axtell settled in the southwest corner of the township; Frederick Baldwin on Sec. 10, where James Luce lives; and Ransom Barnes opened the Isaac Gage farm. The two latter were from the Empire State, and the three belong to 1838.

Frederick Bainter came into the Doan neighborhood in the same season. John Fosdick settled at Lee Center a year earlier, and worked at his trade of blacksmithing, assisted by James Doan, another craftsman, until the next spring, when the shop was moved to Doan's. This was the first smithy in Amboy township. After a residence here of three years, Fosdick went back to Lee Center. Doan and Frederick Bainter afterward carried on blacksmithing sometime together; the former invented and the two manufactured the first scouring plow ever used in these parts, but for some reason Doan's efforts failed to secure a patent. He visited Washington for that purpose as early as 1841 or 1842; six or seven years later he sold his interest to his partner, and in 1849 went to California, where in 1853 he was murdered. To the pioneers the mention of this scouring plow will bring back the recollection of the hardships and inferiority of farming in those days, when the wooden moldboard plow and the wooden tooth harrow were the standard implements for preparing the ground for seed. The harvest was gathered with the hand sickle, a diminutive instrument which very few of to-day could recognize, and the cradle, a great improvement on the back-breaking sickle, which is now hardly more to be seen. Then the grain was spread upon the ground in a circle and tramped out with horses or oxen; the winnowing was done in the wind, which, thanks to the open prairie, was seldom too low to be available at any moment; and next followed the really romantic part of the season's work—hauling to Chicago, a hundred miles, the grain which brought but thirty or forty cents per bushel. Pork commanded from \$1.25 to \$2 per hundred. It will not escape attention that the virgin soil when once subdued, a task to accomplish which was no light labor with the tools then in use, produced good crops with little care. It has been said that to "tickle it with a plow it would laugh with a crop," and "Chet" Badger affirms that "tickling" was about all it received. It must have been so if he could plow five acres a day with an ox team. In less reverent sections of the country such treatment of the soil would be called "deviling."

The trip to Chicago consumed eight or ten days, the net results of

which were a few sparing comforts,— perhaps a pail, a pound of tea, a little coffee and some “factory,” a few nails, a barrel of salt, and occasionally a jag of lumber ; but rarely did one journey suffice to purchase so many needful articles. Will the reader suppose that these early settlers were chained to a hard lot ? Far from that was their condition. Although they were mostly poor and toiled hard, yet their surroundings were such as to take the sting from poverty ; for there was no “society” with its absurd conventionalities, and they found that labor stimulated an appetite devoid of fault, and inclined them always to health and refreshing slumber.

“—— ——— tall, and strong, and swift of foot were they,  
Beyond the dwarfing city's pale abortions ;  
Because their thoughts had never been the prey  
Of selfish care or gain ; the wilds were their portions.  
No sinking spirits told them they grew gray,  
No fashion made them apes of her distortions.

\* \* \* \* \*

Motion was in their days, rest in their slumbers ;  
And cheerfulness the handmaid of their toil ;  
Nor yet too many, nor too few their numbers ;  
Corruption could not make their hearts her soil.  
The lust which stings, the splendor which encumbers,  
With the free pioneers divide no spoil.”

All within a radius of many miles were neighbors ; friendship and equality prevailed, and selfishness was as rare in those times as the noble qualities we have named are in these. Mutual dependence fostered a spirit of true sympathy, and every hand was ready and never forgot to assist, either in the smaller or the greater offices of kindness. No man or woman could excuse himself or herself from neighborly acts, nor would they have done so if they could. Such meanness would have been equivalent to banishment from the community. Neither was hospitality limited to friends, for it would not then have been hospitality, but it was extended even to the stranger, whom they greeted with thrilling welcome, smiles of joy, goodly cheer, and for whom they made a ready place of comfort at their glowing hearthstones and plain, but tidy boards. In the broadest humanity they asked, “Who is my neighbor ?” Not like “a certain lawyer,” “willing to justify himself ;” but to answer only as the unhampered soul in its natural vigor can, just as the Great Master taught. The desire to secure emigrants was very great, and every inducement in the form of entertainment, and assistance to find claims, was tendered to those who proposed to become actual settlers ; and some went so far as to divide their own claims to secure near neighbors. It should be recorded of Mr. Searles that he was conspicuous for his efforts in this direction. In a few years population became comparatively numerous. Work on



the old Central railroad was an instrument which added not a little to the increase. The failure of that mammoth enterprise left some laborers too poor to get away, while others were too much pleased with the country to depart.

It would be impossible to give a complete list of the early settlers, but some not yet spoken of may be mentioned.

In 1839 Cyrus Davis and his son Cyrus A., Massachusetts men, improved a home on the S.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 15; this land is now Wyman's addition to Amboy. In 1840 John Hook and his brother William and their parents, all from Maine, located their home at Rocky Ford in the month of February. Aaron Hook, another son, had emigrated to Bureau county two years before. Reuben Bridgman began an improvement on Sec. 10 in 1840. Joseph Farwell came in 1841 and settled on the N.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 22. On this tract the original plat of Amboy was located. Jesse Hale arrived in 1841; and Samuel Bixby, a "Green Mountain Boy," emigrated from Steuben county, New York, in 1844, and bought the claim of Joseph Gardner. Lyman Bixby migrated to these parts the same year.

Joseph Appleton came to the country as early as 1841 or 1842; subsequently he returned to his native state of New Hampshire, married, and in 1844 brought his family and settled on the E.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of N.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 22. This is now Gilson's addition to Amboy. Josiah Davis, brother to Cyrus, improved the W.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of N.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 22 about the same year of Appleton's final settlement.

Frances H. Northway removed to this township in 1844 and entered the S.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 3. Orres Adams came with his family the same year, also David Searles and Alvan H. Thompson. Hiel Lewis reached this place from Pennsylvania in 1842, and Miles and Joseph in 1845.

In 1846 Seth W. Holmes entered the E.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of S.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 9, where he has since resided. Elijah and Warren Hill joined the settlement in the same year; and Henry C. Shaw came to Binghamton and engaged in the manufacture of the Doan plow.

The Hills established themselves on the school section, which, by the way, was all sold for sixty cents per acre.

In 1849 John M. Blocher settled north of Amboy, where the Shaw heirs now live. The Blunt farm was opened very early by a man named Hawley, who stayed a short time and then removed to another neighborhood.

#### SQUATTERS' ASSOCIATION.

Until the fall of 1844, when the first land sales were held at Dixon, the inhabitants of Amboy township (the reader will understand that for convenience we use names by anticipation) were squatters. The country had been surveyed into townships but not into sections: and

when the last survey took place a general rectifying of lines occurred; not unfrequently the partition divided a claim in twain, and then would follow a trade with a neighboring squatter, one or the other perhaps taking up a new location.

It does not require much penetration to discover that anterior to this time, in the absence of all regulations for maintaining themselves in their homes, there would not have been wanting vexatious sources of disagreement, which would have ended in confusion, if not in something worse. As the individual disposition is to infringe private as well as public rights, so the spontaneous movement of a community is toward the general security by opposing and restraining the smaller with the collective force. Nine years elapsed from the first permanent settlement of the township till the land came into market; during the first two years, and until immigration began to assume some importance, the danger from trespass or claim-jumping was too small to excite notice, but in 1837 the people in this vicinity banded together with those having a common center at Inlet Grove, for mutual protection, and the settlement of disputes respecting claims. Somewhat later the Palestine Grove Association was organized, and held its meetings at Sherman Hatch's and Wm. Dolan's. All necessity for it having ceased, in 1847 it was discontinued. The people were everywhere thus organized into associations, with meeting-places convenient to their locality. These were every one independent of the other, but as their objects were kindred, each was at all times ready to help enforce the authority of a neighboring organization on call. They were known as "Grove Associations," and the assemblies were called "grove meetings." From a few fragmentary papers, relics of the Inlet Society, for whose use we are indebted to the courtesy of Ira Brewer, Esq., of Bradford township, we are able to present a partial yet tolerably clear view of the powers assumed, the business transacted, and the manner of procedure adopted. The earliest document, the constitution, the original draft of which is in the handwriting of Joseph Sawyer, bears date at "Inlet, Ogle county, Illinois, July 10, 1837," and the subscribers, sixty-six in number, set forth their purposes in the following preamble: "The encouragement that congress gave to the pioneers of this country stimulated the present inhabitants to sacrifice property and ease, and commence a long and fatiguing journey in order to better themselves and their offspring,—not only to encounter the fatigue of a long and expensive journey, but also the privations to which they were exposed in consequence of the scarcity of the comforts of life, as well as the inclemency of the weather in open log cabins. Everything considered, we think it no more than right, just, and honorable that each man should hold a reasonable claim, and at the land sales obtain

his lands at congress price." They express their willingness to be governed by rules and regulations based upon equity, and adopt a code, a summary of the chief features being that they "voluntarily agree to join together in defense of their honest claims as far as prudence and honorable principles dictate," and declaring that those which "have been established in the Grove shall be considered honest claims and defended as such." Provision was made for a committee of five to be chosen by the inhabitants to decide "in regard to the honest right and title to claims"; for the rejection of one or more of the committee by either contestant, and for the removal of the entire committee for cause at the pleasure of the citizens. A clerk kept the "proceedings of the Grove," which were to be free for the inspection of all concerned. Every rightful claimant was to be respected and defended as though he had a warranty deed for his land. The seventh and last article is in these words:

"Any person holding a claim must do \$25 worth of work on said claim within six months from the 10th of instant month or his claim shall be forfeited, unless sickness or something reasonable prevents." On March 16, 1839, a committee to which had been assigned the duty of reporting amendments, addressing the "grove," say they "believe it to be important that you not only live up to the spirit of the constitution formed in 1837, but that you amend it, and adapt it to a denser population." Already contemplating a dense population, and not yet 2,000 inhabitants in the whole county! But then ideas are only comparative. As amended, the constitution further provided for an annual meeting on the third Saturday of March each year, at which the president and clerk were to be elected; it enjoined upon the latter officer the duty of giving members seven days' notice of special and annual meetings, and the calling together of the committee to hear evidence in contested cases, wherein two or more individuals pretended to rights in the same claim, and granting to either party the right of appeal from the decision of the committee to the society whose determination was to be final. The boundaries of the association were defined as extending "south half way from this [Inlet] grove to Knox, half way to Dixon, half way to Malugan, half way to Palestine and half way to Franklin Grove." Claimants actually occupying and improving land were entitled to protection in a claim of one half-section. Nothing was to be construed contrary to the laws of the state or of the United States. All lands within the bounds of the association not recognized by the records of the same as "claimed" were to be considered as unclaimed. Privilege was given to any person residing within the jurisdiction of the association to become a member and have his claims recorded. At a called meeting on the 2d a general registry of claims had been made. At the annual

meeting on the 16th George E. Haskell was chosen president for that year, and Martin Wright clerk. The committee elected consisted of Ransom Barnes, D. H. Birdsall, Ozro C. Wright, Daniel M. Dewey and Benjamin Whiteaker. At the regular election, March 20, 1841, Messrs. Haskell and Wright were again elected president and clerk respectively, and D. H. Birdsall, David Tripp, Daniel M. Dewey, Charles Starks and Sherman Shaw committee. The president and clerk were reelected in 1842, and once more in 1843. For the former year Daniel M. Dewey, Joseph Sawyer, Benjamin Whiteaker, Charles Starks, and D. H. Birdsall constituted "the committee for the grove"; and for the latter, Daniel M. Dewey, Charles Starks, Joseph Sawyer, Benjamin Whiteaker, and Lewis Clapp.

A few extracts taken at random from their proceedings will convey a better idea of their administration of justice than any description can.

March 2, 1839. "On motion a vote was called relative to Roswell Streeter's holding the lot north of the township line (being north of the one claimed by Sherman Shaw), and decided in the negative; as also was the one east of this."

"A vote was taken on the question whether Sherman Shaw should be allowed to claim one lot north of his present one, and decided in the affirmative."

"A vote was taken whether Martin Wright should hold one quarter-section, being the two second lots lying north of the township line, and north of the two claimed by Whiteaker and Clapp, and decided in the affirmative."

"A motion was made by George E. Haskell, and carried, that all claims now made which can be satisfactorily proved by marks and evidence be entitled to the protection of the Grove as if they were entered, until a plat is provided embracing the tract within the Grove's jurisdiction."

A reconsideration of the vote in the case of Roswell Streeter was taken, and it was decided that he should not extend his claim one lot farther north.

"Another vote was called to ascertain whether Sherman Shaw should have the lot contended for by Roswell Streeter, and decided in the affirmative."

"Voted that Lewis Clapp should hold one hundred rods in width north of the township line (being north of his present claim), extending the length of one lot; and that Ozro C. Wright should have sixty rods in width and be permitted to hold the second lot north of the township line (being north of his present claim)."

"Voted that Nelson De Wolf should be permitted to hold the claim of prairie that formerly belonged to Mr. Doge, but now forfeited."



March 19, 1842.—“Voted that the claim of Samuel Wressell be forfeited; also, that Samuel Cobel be permitted to take the same.”

July 7. “The chairman stated the object of the meeting to be to take into consideration the difficulty which had arisen between Benoni Hannum and Martin Eastwood in regard to a certain claim lying west of Benoni Hannum’s on the south side of the road.”

On motion the constitution was read by the clerk.

“It was requested that Mr. Hannum make a statement in relation to the subject.

“A motion was made and carried that Mr. Hannum become a member of the association, and his claim be recognized by the constitution.

“A motion was made and carried that no member should withdraw from the society without leave of the association.”

January 21, 1843.—“The chairman stated the object of the meeting, namely, to take into consideration the adoption of such measures whereby we all may be protected more effectually in our claim rights.

“Voted that a committee go to Dixon and get a bond drawn for this purpose.” Benjamin Whiteaker and D. H. Birdsall appointed.

January 28.—“Article” read and unanimously adopted. Committee of five, consisting of Daniel M. Dewey, Joseph Sawyer, Charles Starks, Daniel Frost, and Adolphus Bliss, appointed to circulate it for signatures.

“Voted that those members who have signed the article may have the privilege of erasing their names at the next meeting, provided all the members of the association do not sign the same.”

February 2.—Committee to circulate bond reported and was discharged. New committee appointed, composed of Charles West, Thomas Dexter, Martin Wright, Joseph Sawyer, and William Church.

February 17.—“On motion it was carried that Joseph Sawyer, Lewis Clapp, Charles Starks, Daniel Frost and Sherman Shaw be a committee to go and see those members of this association that have not signed the bond, and obtain their signatures if possible.

The purport of this bond is to us as much a matter of conjecture as to the reader; but to throw some light upon it, as well as upon cognate points of interest, we copy the entire report, which was evidently made to the association about this time, or a little before. The chirography is that of Mr. George E. Haskell—a beautiful, lady-like hand. If any evidence were wanting to show the character of these early settlers in intelligence and scholarship, this report is all that would be required.

“The committee appointed to inquire into and investigate the necessity and propriety of adopting some more effectual means of se-

curing claims embraced within the limits of this association, would respectfully submit the following report :

“In the examination of the subject submitted to their investigation your committee cannot but revert to the principles that have given rise to this association, and operated thus far to continue it in existence to the security and happiness of the community which it embraces. Thrown together as its members have been from various states of our Union, and possessing all the traits of character peculiar to those who have been reared under different circumstances, it affords a happy illustration of the tendency of our republican institutions, in implanting, nourishing and keeping alive a spirit of equality and just regard for the rights of all, together with that predisposition to establish and maintain inviolate the social compact wherever the citizen of our country may be found. Actuated by this spirit, the inhabitants of this community early embraced the opportunity of bringing into practical operation the principle of self-government, upon a point which legislative enactment could not reach, and which they have pledged their honor to support; and it is a source of mutual congratulation that thus far its tendency has been to produce the most beneficial results. The claims of all have been respected, and a just regard had to the growth and prosperity of the neighborhood, in the accommodations afforded to all that wished to unite themselves to this community in nearness of settlement. The plighted honor of the association has been kept good, and from the indications around it would seem that all which was contemplated in the original organization of this compact is to be fully realized. Such is undoubtedly the case. But a change in our circumstances is about to take place. The rightful owner of the soil upon which we are located is to call upon us for his due, and that, too, at a period not far distant. Some, and it is to be hoped all, the members of this association will be able to answer the call and obtain a title to the land which they now claim. Under circumstances even of this character it would appear, perhaps, that the constitution adopted by this association might afford a sufficient guarantee for the rights and privileges of all, but a mature consideration of the subject has convinced your committee that such is not the case. In paying for land, whether at the general land sales or under the preëmption law, the individual so paying receives his title to the same, which no right of the claimant can ever reach. This, of course, is a settled and incontrovertible point. Now it is well known and understood that there are individuals settled upon these lands embraced within the limits of this association, who by entering under the preëmption law, in consequence of being located on one eighty of a quarter-section can carry the other with it, and thus deprive their neighbor of what,

under the articles of our association, is considered justly his right to purchase of government. Again, many of the claims of the settlers are made according to imaginary lines, which, it is supposed, may be the lines established by the general survey, and will thus embrace their claim in a certain section, quarter-section, etc., as the claimants themselves have marked them out. But respecting this there is great uncertainty. The survey may accord with the claim lines, and it may not. Instances have been mentioned, in the late subdivisions that have taken place, where townships in some cases have overrun and in others have fallen short. Thus a particular number of a section, or its quarter-section, may embrace one man's claim and part of another's, and the certificate, instead of giving him what was his, gives him what belonged to another, and deprives that other of his right. These two difficulties, it would seem, are the most important that present themselves to the consideration of this body at present, and to your committee they appear matters of consequence, and to call for some remedial action. If it be the case that anything interfere to prevent the settlers from obtaining a title to their just claims, which it is competent for this association to remove, it is but justice that its powers be exerted to that point. By its constitution all its members are entitled to call for such action; for who can resist the conviction that every member who has subscribed to it is pledged in his honor to assist in affording his neighbor all the assistance consistent with honorable principles in securing his claim against the encroachments of his neighbor? And if that security may necessarily extend to a legal obligation, to take effect after the land sale, does not his honor here plighted require that he should cheerfully accede to it? It may, however, be presumed on the part of some that if such be the case the honor here pledged may be a sufficient guarantee from the purchaser of another man's claim to render him a title when the certificate from government is procured. But your committee cannot come to that conclusion. The association, as it now stands, presents a body of individuals mutually dependent on each other; consequently what may be the interest of one must be the interest of all to a greater or less extent; and as the life of this association is co-existent with the life of claims, it is only during that period that its members are privileged with an appeal to its principles or jurisdiction. The purchaser, then, with his title in his hands, acknowledges no respect but to the law which secures the soil, and may forever stand aloof from him who has trusted in vain to his honor. Again, experience plainly proves that power, when once obtained, is likely to be abused. The individual to-day surrounded by circumstances that constrain him to act with propriety, and to deal out justice to all with whom he may stand con-

nected, to-morrow, by a change of circumstances, may be ready to hold at bay all whom he had before respected. This principle in human nature, so generally applicable that any deviation from it is accounted an exception to a general rule, behooves men, as they regard their own peace and that of those around them, to guard well against it, and where or when can they be called upon more imperiously than in this association and at this time? It is a call not only to secure effectually a right, but to perform a duty which respects the well being, future prosperity, peace and harmony of the social compact, of which each settler forms a part. To your committee it would seem that no reasonable objection could arise in the mind of anyone to secure his neighbor by a legal obligation to take effect conditionally after the land sales may have taken place. This undoubtedly would prevent any disturbance whatever, and is so clearly predicated upon the golden rule that any man who might dissent from it, would seem not to be actuated by those principles; and if he could not now show himself willing to comply with them it cannot be considered safe to predict that he would at any time hereafter. It is therefore recommended to this association that they adopt the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That the members of this association who may now have their claim limits marked and defined, be each separately and individually required, as soon as it may be required of them by an adjoining claimant, to enter into a bond with such adjoining claimant, conditioned that if he, the person so required, shall purchase or cause to be purchased of government any of the lands embraced within the adjoining claimant's claim lines, acknowledged and defined according to the customs of the grove association, he will convey by deed to such adjoining claimant (upon said claimant's furnishing the money to pay for the same to the government) all the land which he may have so purchased within his (the requiring claimant's) claim lines as above specified, within thirty days after such purchase. And further, that all those whose claim limits are not specifically defined shall immediately proceed to have their lines clearly marked out according to the custom of this association, and enter into the bond as herein named and required of those whose boundaries are defined; and upon failure of any member to comply herewith he shall cease to be a member of this association, and shall no longer be entitled to its protection. All of which is respectfully submitted.

"Signed,

"GEORGE E. HASKELL,  
"BENJAMIN WHITEAKER,  
"JOSEPH SAWYER,  
"LEWIS CLAPP,  
"MARTIN WRIGHT.

"Committee."



This report and these proceedings give a very fair idea of the methods adopted by the inhabitants to protect each man in his right of possession to land, and the spirit which animated and governed them in the exercise of their powers. Technically they were there without right—trespassers upon the public domain—yet doing in advance only that which was a gratification to the law and fulfillment of it, when in its tardy progress westward it should overtake “the star of empire.” They had left bustling communities and cultivated homes behind, with the ambitious design of making other homes; and while, perhaps, in the long run they would increase their possessions, it was still as much a matter of complacent regard and calculation to the whole country as to them, inasmuch as could be seen in it a laudable growth of empire in wealth, settlement, and population. Civilized usage defends the natural right of ownership to the person first in possession, and the moral aspect of the situation which the early settlers assumed is a complete justification of the course they adopted and pursued. The government, indeed, owned the land, and was willing that it should be occupied; but made no choice as to occupants, and would give title, when put in market, to whomsoever should first present himself as a purchaser. As regarded land and law the pioneers were in the condition of our first parents; to the former they held on by sufferance, and of the latter experienced a distressing nakedness; but their programme contemplated not their own driving out, but that of the interlopers and speculators. Respecting the question of land—a very precious item of account since it meant home and all—they promptly and wisely constituted themselves law-makers, judges, and executors of the law. From what has gone before we have learned how they discharged the two former functions; and after we have gleaned a little light on the latter we may dismiss this topic.

The making and expounding of law is not the most complex and difficult part of the governmental economy. “The proof of the pudding is in the eating;” and of the law in the administering. In making a claim to land the claimant was required to establish visible limits in some manner, as by staking out the tract, or plowing a furrow around it; and to make some improvement, though this was often very slight, as evidence of good faith on his part to become an actual settler. This “law of the place” completely barred out speculators; for while a man was limited, as we have seen, to a claim of half a section, he was obliged to be a resident, though it was not essential that his land should be taken in a body, for he might have separate claims aggregating his allowance.

New-comers were often inclined to despise and defy the authority of the Grove association, and to jump bona-fide claims. A display of



*Geo Ryan*



public sentiment was usually all that was required to convince an offender how hopeless was a single-handed contest with a thoroughly organized and determined community. A committee of citizens would wait on him and remonstrate in a firm but friendly manner, pointing out the rights of the prior claimant and showing him his own wrong. Very rarely would such treatment fail of the desired result, and then only when the subject was so obdurate as not to be susceptible to the kindlier influences, in which case nothing remained but to persuade him with literal water baptism for temporal purposes. The people were concerned in the preservation of peace and good order, and the practice of justice; but human nature being the same in all classes, climes, and ages, they could not escape the necessity of sustaining their home-made laws against the usual license and infraction; and there is no reason to doubt that a great variety of devices, ingenious and sometimes violent, were brought into requisition first by one side in the commission of wrong, and then by the other in undoing and correcting it.

A grotesque occurrence, exhibiting the spirit of the people, took place soon after the land came into market. A poor man named Anderson lived on a "forty" at Perkins' Grove. Perkins having a spite against him, as subsequently appeared, interested a stage agent at Dixon by the name of Bull to enter Anderson's homestead. At once all except the moving cause became known; and with calm, decided purpose the citizens collected one night about sundown at Rocky Ford, to the number of seventy-five, and turning their backs upon the illumination of a big bonfire as the shades of evening began to thicken, they marched all night with resolute tread for Dixon. Sheriff Campbell lived a mile or two out of the town, and they took the trouble to call at his house and inform him of the object of the expedition, and to assure him that there was no intention to raise a riot or inflict personal injury. The design was to enter Dixon before the people should be up and stirring about much, to take Bull prisoner, depart to a convenient place, and demand of him a conveyance of the land to Anderson. The affair was well planned and executed. Just as day was breaking the motley cavalcade filed into the sleepy town and surrounded the hotel. One of the strongest in the crowd had been detailed to wait in the bar-room until he should make his appearance. Presently Bull entered and stepped behind the bar; no sooner had he done this than he was vigorously seized, but being also a strong man, and having the advantage of the counter, he was able to maintain a successful resistance until two more men were sent to the assistance of the first, when he was brought out promptly, thrown into the wagon, and driven off. The colored waiter, alarmed at the proceeding, leaped



into the street and rushed through the town, brandishing a big butcher knife and shouting "murder!" The commotion brought the people out in sudden amazement and in all states of dress, and tarrying only long enough to grasp their weapons they started in hot pursuit on foot, mounted and in wagons. The party with the prisoner were soon overtaken, and the pursuers, in ignorance of their real design, made so excited and hostile a demonstration as to threaten imminent danger of bloodshed. At first Bull himself was not a little terrified, and implored an explanation; being told his offense he was speedily relieved, and able to convince the people that it was not through any improper motive that he had entered Anderson's land, and that he would at once cheerfully make it over to him. On reaching Sheriff Campbell's a circle was formed to keep back the Dixonites, Bull placed in the ring, and the preliminaries concluded by which Campbell became surety for the performance of Bull's agreement to convey the land to Anderson on terms of no small advantage to the latter. This was in the spring of 1845, and was one of the most notable exploits under the old regime.

#### BANDITTI.

The boldest creations of romance are little more than feeble imitations of the actual. As an illustration of this the system of organized crime which inclosed this region from 1843 to 1850 is an example without a parallel. The history of the western country in the early stages of settlement is checkered with graceless characters who have prosecuted their desperate designs against the peace and safety of society, singly and in gangs; but no other band, we think, was so successful in inveigling into its toils an equal number of confederates, distributed over the land, scattered through every neighborhood, whose operations were so adroit and connections so skillfully concealed, and who secreted stolen property, counterfeited money, and harbored red-handed criminals with such clandestine success as to make the keenest vigilance for a while appear like a drowsy god. The Green River bottoms in places were gloomy, tangled, unknown swamps, which even the most curious and adventuresome hunters had not explored. The immense Inlet swamp, and the larger Green River swamp in the southwest corner of the county and the north part of Bureau, were trysting-places for the outlaws. Deep forests and rank vegetation covered them. The latter, a sink and den of horrors, was skirted by low and rambling hills, whose winding ravines were passes in all directions. The sparseness of population was also favorable to the commission of crime and the escape of criminals. Hiding-places were convenient and numerous. A man found no difficulty in secreting himself in the tall grass in low places. The rider who pene-

trated the groves and marshes could elude pursuit; besides, friends unknown as accomplices, except to the robbers themselves, kept watch for their companions, communicated information to them, hid and protected, fed and warmed them and shared their plunder; and through a period of long-standing danger and excitement were able to defy detection by the people, who were paralyzed with wonder and alarm at the boldness and frequency of the crimes committed. Mysterious sights and discoveries went unexplained. Strangers on foot, sometimes mounted, of singular or suspicious appearance, now with bushy whiskers and long hair, wearing slouch hats, suggesting dark and dangerous freebooters, again clad in spruce outfit, with tall beaver hats, and canes in hand, would be seen passing through the settlement. Children often came home with stories of such men seen when driving up the cows at night. Faint trails were discovered, and secluded spots where animals had been fed and men had lounged while waiting; and at unusual hours of night and in uncommon places the neighing of horses made women shudder, as they thought of the bandits at their work.

Horse-stealing was but a recreation. Counterfeiting served well the purpose to absorb idle hours. Atrocious murder, blood-curdling and cruel, was committed and expiated on the scaffold without a sign of regret by these hardened men. People locked their stables, barricaded their doors, and placed their weapons within reach for instant use, not knowing what dreadful tragedy they might be actors in before morning. Public helplessness to ferret out and bring to punishment the ruffians who set at naught every form and semblance of law destroyed all sense of security. Suspensions were directed against some, and whispered about; others were so vague that no man dared more than entertain them. Men stood in doubt, if not in dread, of neighbors, and no one could deny that a strange thrill pervaded his consciousness as if every man's hand was against him.

This gigantic crime against the state is adequately treated of elsewhere, and we are confined, perforce, to a relation of the local efforts made for its suppression. The operations of the gang embraced the whole Mississippi valley, but its depredations in this region were sufficiently startling to awaken among the people and keep in constant activity the liveliest apprehensions.

Among the most daring of these were the robbery of Mulford in Ogle county; McKinney, at Rockford; Miller, at Troy Grove; George E. Haskell, at Inlet; the plot against the Dixon land office and the robbery of Frink, Walker & Co's stage; the murder of Campbell, "captain of the vigilance committee" in Ogle county, by three of the desperadoes, two of whom, the Driscolls, were promptly lynched; and the shocking murder of Col. Davenport at Rock Island, July 4, 1845.

The active vigilance and cooperation of the whole community became immediately necessary. An attempted robbery near Inlet Grove implicated two of the principal citizens of the place, one of whom was the magistrate. These were arrested, and at the spring term of the Lee county circuit court convicted and sentenced to three years' imprisonment in the penitentiary. Both died before the expiration of their term. Soon after the arrest of these men, in the autumn of 1844, Charles West, another citizen of Inlet Grove (who was also the constable), was suspected of the robbery of the peddler Miller, at Troy Grove, and search being made some of the goods were found in his house. He was examined and committed for trial, but turned state's evidence and made what purported to be a full disclosure. His confession led to a number of searches and arrests, and considerable stolen property was recovered. Goods having been found in the house of another leading man at Inlet Grove, he was arrested (June 1845) and sent to the penitentiary for two years, but was pardoned and set at liberty after a few months. He had had a horse stolen, and while denying any active participation in the robberies, or having profited by them, he accounted for his guilty knowledge by confessing that the brigands had proposed to return his horse as an equivalent for his friendship, and that in his anxiety to obtain his property he had allowed himself to become criminally associated with them. He denied all knowledge of the goods found in his house; and it was and still is the belief that his wife and step-son were far more deeply involved than he. There were strong presumptions in his favor regarding the degree of his complicity, which led to his pardon. One of the methods by which the ringleaders extended their organization was to rob a man, then work on his sensibilities in this manner, and after he had once yielded in the least measure it was an easy matter to terrify the victim into their ranks by threats of exposure.

Close upon these surprising developments at Inlet Grove the people organized themselves into a body, styled "An Association for Furthering the Cause of Justice," and adopted a constitution, the preamble to which explains their motives and the necessity for their action. We acknowledge again our obligations to Mr. Ira Brewer for the original document, together with some resolutions and other proceedings relating to the subject.

"WHEREAS, Sundry depredations have been committed upon the property of the citizens of this vicinity from time to time, and appearances have plainly shown that Inlet Grove has been a resting-place and depot for the numerous rogues that infest the country; and whereas it has now become a settled point in our belief that there are those about us who are not only willing to aid and succor the thief that

passes through in the hour of darkness with his ill-gotten booty, but also to receive it at his hands and to share the spoils; and whereas, from the peculiar character of our country, and the numbers associated in the shape of banditti, it has been heretofore and is still difficult for the officers of justice, with the individual assistance of the person robbed or suffering at their hands, to bring the offenders to justice; therefore we, the undersigned, have agreed to form ourselves into an association for the purpose of aiding any man that unites with us in attempting to regain his property unlawfully taken, to protect ourselves from all incursions of a villainous character, to assist the officers of justice in taking rogues of all descriptions, and as much as may be to assist each other in maintaining good order in society, by keeping a constant look-out for all persons of a suspicious character, and we accordingly pledge ourselves to each other to mutually exert ourselves as far as we are able to counteract the evils enumerated, as well as to bring about the good proposed."

After providing for the customary offices of president, secretary and treasurer, and prescribing their duties, this instrument declares that a vigilance committee shall be appointed by the presiding officer, and defines it to be their duty "to receive from any member of the association any information relating to unlawful depredations made at any time upon the person or property of our members, and to report it forthwith to a person selected as chairman of said committee, whose duty it shall be to act in behalf of the society by communicating the information immediately to the officers of justice, and to obey any instruction which may hereafter be given him by the association. The said committee shall elect said chairman, to be known to no one but themselves and the officers of justice: and he shall make his communications to the said officers of justice as secretly as possible, in order to avoid the escape of a criminal or of persons suspected. Any member of the vigilance committee may report immediately to the officers of justice if he deem it advisable.

"Article Fifth: A set of runners shall be appointed by the vigilance committee whose duty it shall be to start immediately in all directions that it may be supposed a rogue has gone, whenever anything shall appear to have been feloniously taken, or any mischief done to the property of our associated members, and to make all necessary search." Funds were to be raised by the subscription of members, and it is declared that they "shall consider themselves bound, by their subscribing to this constitution, to pay \* \* \* as much as if they had given their note for value received," and they pledge themselves to pay to the treasurer on his demand as the vigilance committee require from time to time.



"Article Seventh.—We do hereby pledge ourselves mutually to do all in our power for the detection of all rogues; that we will be vigilant, and whenever any suspicious person shall be around will forthwith report him; whenever any property shall appear under suspicious circumstances, will give information respecting the same, either to a member of our vigilance committee or directly to the officers of justice; and will do all in our power consistently with our circumstances in life to make any sufferer hereafter from their attacks as good as before.

"Article Eighth.—Any person who is not of a suspicious character may become a member of this association by signing the constitution; but if objections are made to him at the time of joining by any member, he shall be admitted only by a vote of the association, the majority at all times ruling."

In spite of their precautions it is said they did not succeed in keeping their ranks free from emissaries of the band, who thus got due appraisal of much that was going on. The expulsion of any member who should aid or countenance the outlaws was declared among the powers of the association, with the supplemental provision that he should "share his fate with them." The chairman of the vigilance committee was to be selected by that committee from the members of the association, and was to be "known to no one but themselves and the officers of justice." Meetings were to be held yearly for the election of officers, and extra meetings were to be called by the vigilance committee, each of whom was to "take his share of notifying members of the association."

"Article Twelfth.—We do hereby agree that our premises and buildings shall at all times be open and ready for search for missing property, and that any member of our vigilance committee shall at any time have liberty to search us our possessions without any legal process; and whenever we find any person unwilling to admit such search, the person so refusing it shall be considered suspicious, and legal measures shall be taken forthwith to search him and his premises, and he shall forfeit his membership in the association."

This constitution was adopted November 4, 1844, and seventy-two well known citizens attached their signatures. Moses Crombie was elected president, Ira Brewer clerk, and George E. Haskell treasurer. The president appointed the following vigilance committee: Corydon R. Dewey, Sherman Shaw, George R. Linn, C. I. Hitchcock, Sylvanus Peterson, G. A. Ingalls, Harmon Wasson, and John C. Church. Some resolutions were passed referring to the disclosures made by the detection of the first two offenders arrested at Inlet, pronouncing judgment upon the guilty; and also declaring the future course of the associa-

tion toward all who should be found in criminal attitude. It is possible now to remark only in general terms that the association rendered valuable service in the enforcement of the laws, and the final suppression of the band. The reader is by this time acquainted with the end proposed, and the means and methods adopted to accomplish it, and in the absence of detailed information it is enough to say that the sanguine aims of the organization were completely and speedily realized. The straggling records before us show that about the first of June, 1845, the community was thrown into fresh commotion, for on the 7th a meeting was held and George E. Haskell, C. I. Hitchcock and C. R. Dewey were appointed to report resolutions, which were accepted and laid over for consideration to an adjourned meeting of the 10th. These show that on the 6th one of the leading bandits was in the settlement, and it is charged that "it is confidently believed that ——— had a conference yesterday with the thief that passed through the grove," and warning him to beware of the wrath of the people. This was probably when they surrounded and beat up the grove for Fox (or Birch) and the audacious outlaw in gentlemanly garb and with walking-stick in hand coolly passed two citizens on the highway who were stationed to intercept him and prevent his escape. They did not recognize him, and were so thoughtless as not to detain him. On another occasion one of the gang, riding a stolen horse, was chased into the grove; but he escaped and left the people balancing between excitement and disappointment.

The last person arrested in the neighborhood and convicted was the one referred to in the resolution, and it was only a few days afterward that he was taken in custody. West's confession, we find, has brought him into danger from another quarter, for the association declare that "it is well known that the life of Charles West has been threatened," but "we are determined to protect the said Charles West at all events, and that if his life is taken we will take measures to avenge his death," and much more on the same point. They dedicate themselves to more efficient work by proposing to improve their communication with the people of Dixon and the settlements at the groves, and thus increase the facilities for arousing the country quickly; to appoint a special messenger to assist in giving immediate notice to the members in an emergency, and by instructing the vigilance committee to meet forthwith to prepare "for the summer campaign," and to continue their meetings frequently and regularly.

Here, as in all assemblies, men advocated moderate or extreme measures, according as they were of radical or conservative temper. The resolutions in question bear marks of a threatening impatience, and we should not have been surprised if after having been so much harried

with dangers and apprehensions the people had put their denunciations in more impetuous words. Dr. Adams, a prominent member, and, by the way, a democrat, whose inflammable nature needed not such fuel as the situation furnished, advocated the resolutions in a strong speech, and proclaimed himself in favor of hunting the brigands like wolves. The Rev. John Cross, than whom no milder mannered man broke the bread of life, opposed these views in a neat and softening speech, deprecating violence, and expressing hope that the people would preserve their reputation for obeying the laws. Dr. Adams arose to reply, with fiery indignation stamped on every feature. In a bitter retort he reminded the reverend gentleman that he might be a consistent stickler for the law if he would give absolutely none of his time to running off negroes on the underground railroad. The range was close, the shot deadly, and the preacher could not recover. The resolutions passed.

This organization was a necessity of the time, and the only feasible adjunct to the arm of the law, which, without its aid, was utterly powerless. It numbered in its ranks all the better citizens, who addressed themselves with energy and resolution to the business of protecting the community from theft and murder. The execution of the Hodges, the Longs, and Young, crushed the head of the anaconda. Alarms ceased, and peace reigned once more.

#### ORGANIZATION.

Lee county adopted township organization in 1849, and the first election under this new form of local government was in the following spring. Anterior to this date Amboy was divided between the flanking precincts on the east and the west. When the township was christened a number of names were proposed, but none gave satisfaction until Miles Lewis suggested the name of *Amboy*, which was received with unanimous favor, and adopted. The first annual town meeting was held on Tuesday, April 2; Joseph Farwell presided as moderator, and Joseph B. Appleton was elected clerk. Polling places were at school-houses and private residences until Amboy was built, when the town meetings were for several years held in Farwell Hall. John Dexter was an early magistrate. His way of doing business was not uncommon in his day on the border, but appears novel to his successors of this period. Complaint had been made against a man for assault and battery, and he fined him three dollars; the constable whispered in the justice's ear, when he said he would change the fine, and imposed that amount on each the complainant and the defendant, and divided the costs between them.

The subjoined list of township officers does not include the whole number, but the principal ones that can be made out from the records and other sources with certainty:

	SUPERVISOR.	TOWN CLERK.	ASSESSOR.	COLLECTOR.
1850.	David Searles.	J. B. Appleton.	Martin Wright.	A. H. Thompson.
1851.	David Searles.	J. B. Appleton.	Cyrus Bridgman.	A. H. Thompson.
1852.	Moses Lathe.	J. B. Appleton.	Lot Chadwick.	A. H. Thompson.
1853.	F. R. Dutcher.	James Andruss.	E. M. Blair.	A. H. Thompson.
1854.	Simon Badger.	J. B. Appleton.	A. H. Thompson.	Zanthe Reed.
1855.	J. B. Appleton.	J. M. Davis.	Stephen Stone.	Julius Hale.
1856.	H. Wasson.	.....	.....	.....
1857.	H. E. Badger.	Josiah Little.	Cyrus Bridgman.	W. B. Andruss.
1858.	H. E. Badger.	C. D. Vaughan.	Cyrus Bridgman.	W. B. Andruss.
1859.	H. E. Badger.	C. D. Vaughan.	J. M. Davis.	W. B. Andruss.
1860.	H. E. Badger.	C. D. Vaughan.	J. M. Davis.	W. B. Andruss.
1861.	J. M. Davis.	C. D. Vaughan.	Simon Badger.	C. D. Sears.
1862.	Josiah Little.	C. D. Vaughan.	D. H. Crocker.	Isaac Edwards.
1863.	Josiah Little.	W. B. Andruss.	C. D. Sears.	J. E. Whiting.
1864.	H. E. Badger.	W. B. Andruss.	C. D. Sears.	J. C. Church.
1865.	H. E. Badger.	W. B. Andruss.	C. D. Sears.	Isaac Edwards.
1866.	H. E. Badger.	W. B. Andruss.	J. C. Church.	J. S. Baker.
1867.	H. E. Badger.	W. B. Andruss.	David Crocker.	E. P. Walker.
1868.	Isaac Edwards.	Chas. P. Ives.	Lee Cronkrite.	Chas. W. Bell.
1869.	Isaac Edwards.	Chas. P. Ives.	Lee Cronkrite.	E. E. Chase.
1870.	F. R. Dutcher.	Chas. P. Ives.	D. H. Crocker.	Michael Carroll.
1871.	Chester Badger.	J. T. Tait.	D. H. Crocker.	J. R. Patterson.
1872.	F. R. Dutcher.	J. T. Tait.	D. H. Crocker.	O. F. Warriner.
1873.	Chester Badger.	C. E. Ives.	D. H. Crocker.	M. Carroll.
1874.	Chester Badger.	C. E. Ives.	D. H. Crocker.	M. Carroll.
1875.	Chester Badger.	C. E. Ives.	D. H. Crocker.	Ira Smith.
1876.	Chester Badger.	C. E. Ives.	Lee Cronkrite.	E. E. Chase.
1877.	Chester Badger.	W. P. Barnes.	Lee Cronkrite.	Isaac Edwards.
1878.	Isaac Edwards.	D. F. Strickland.	Lee Cronkrite.	Oscar Spangler.
1879.	Isaac Edwards.	L. L. Staup.	Lee Cronkrite.	Ira Smith.
1880.	Isaac Edwards.	James Mead.	Lee Cronkrite.	N. B. Koontz.
1881.	Isaac Edwards.	Geo. Kiefer.	Lee Cronkrite.	W. J. Edwards.

Badger and Ives resigned in December 1874, and Chauncy D. Sears and James T. Tait were appointed to the respective vacancies. Again in April following they resigned their offices. In both cases these resignations were owing to complications of the township arising from certain outstanding railroad bonds.

#### PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS.

The first road laid through the township connected Grand de Tour and Peru; the second one ran from Inlet Grove to Prophetstown, Binghamton and Rocky Ford lying on the route. Main street in Amboy is identical with it, and the large cottonwood trees which flank it to the right and left of the Congregational church were planted by the hand of Joseph Farwell to mark its course.

The old Central railroad, on which the state in a crazy freak squandered over a million dollars, was surveyed and partly built through this township. The charter was first granted to Darius B. Holbrook, but before he had organized a company the legislature repealed it, and included



this work in the system of public improvements undertaken by the state in 1836-7. After the public credit failed he obtained a renewal of his charter, with a grant of all the work that had been done. Dr. Harrison, of Peru, took a contract to build part of the line, and sent a force of laborers here in the fall of 1841 to renew the grading which had been begun four or five years before and worked upon at intervals afterward. He started a bank in Peru and issued circulation; but one day somebody went down and demanded specie for his paper, and was refused. When news of this reached the gang of men up here they dropped their tools, and the sun never rose on a resumption of the work. Harrison's paper was in the hands of people in this section, where it has remained so long that its "staying qualities" are fully and forever established. It was known as "Bangs' railroad money," and is a reminiscence of "wildcat" banking, and of the old Central "wildcat" improvement. Remains of the old work are yet visible.

The only resemblance ever borne by the present Central railroad to the former was in the name. Stephen A. Douglas procured the release of Holbrook's charter, and was the author of the measure which brought this grand enterprise into successful existence. Congress passed the bill in 1850, and the next winter the Illinois legislature incorporated the company. The survey was completed in 1851, and the succeeding year construction began. The division from Mendota to Freeport was formally opened for traffic February 1, 1855. The first train reached Amboy early in November 1854.

The construction of the Chicago, Amboy & Upper Mississippi railroad was loudly agitated at one time; a charter was procured and the survey direct from Amboy to Chicago made in 1856, under the direction of Col. R. B. Mason. No stock was taken and the undertaking failed. But direct communication with Chicago was an object having many attractions, and was sure some time to furnish the triumphant argument for a road. The situation was improved when, at the session of 1868-9, Alonzo Kinyon, a member of the legislature from Lee county, obtained from that body a charter for the Chicago & Rock River railroad, which was to extend east from Rock Falls and intersect the Central at Calumet. On the organization of the company in May 1869, Mr. Kinyon was elected president. Amboy township was asked to take stock in the road to the amount of \$100,000, and on July 26, 1869, voted to do so, polling 517 votes in favor of the proposition, to 92 against it. On March 30, 1870, the contract for building the road was awarded to a New York company. It was to be finished by the 1st of January following; but on July 28, the work having made little headway, the contractor was relieved at his own request, and the construction relet to Hinckley & Co. Still little was

done, and in September it was announced that Messrs. Wicker, Micklin & Co., of Chicago, had contracted to complete the road within a year, from Calumet to Rock Falls, and within two years from Amboy to Bureau Junction. The last rail was laid between Amboy and Rock Falls January 4, 1872; and on Wednesday, June 19, the road was finished to Paw Paw. Some of the towns between Amboy and Rock Falls that had voted to take stock failed, when that division of the road was built, to transfer their bonds; and on the election of the new board in January, the contractors, holding the larger amount of stock, were able to reorganize the board of directors to suit their purposes. This board, in June, sold the first mortgage bonds to the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad Company. In July it was decided to extend the time for the completion of the road one year, and in the meantime to make temporary connection with the Chicago & Iowa railroad at Shabbona. To the people of Amboy this was the certain knell of all their hopes, for it told in action, which is said to speak plainer than words, that the road was a failure, that it would not be completed as originally proposed. But Amboy had shouldered the elephant by delivering the bonds. She enjoyed a season of great expectations, thinking that the headquarters of the company would be established here, and dreaming of machine shops, and how Amboy was to become a city of furnaces and forges; for all this had been guaranteed in the language of the most eloquent promises. The picture *was* dazzling.

The first regular passenger train went over the road Wednesday, October 16, 1872. The road now connects with the trunk line at Sandwich.

#### SCHOOLS.

The first school-house in Amboy township was built of logs in the year 1839, and situated on the Sublette road, just south of the railroad crossing. Lucy Ann Church was the first teacher. Men were employed in winter and women in summer. Leonard Pratt, John Carey, Ira Hale, David Hale and Charlotte Doan taught in this house. After the Wasson school-house, the second in the township, and a frame building, was erected in 1845, the former was moved farther south and put up near the Lewis homestead. Here Roena Badger and Roxy Wasson taught for many years, and they seemed, in fact, to be the principal dependence of the community for summer teachers. John Scott, an able pedagogue, who died afterward in California, taught first in the Wasson district. The Misses Badger and Wasson, H. E. Badger and Lyman C. Wheat were also early teachers in the same place. John C. Church, who was a director, tells an anecdote on himself with considerable relish. He had hired Wheat to teach, and the latter, as a matter of course, invited

him to visit the school. Church replied in his positive way: "I hired *you* to keep the school, and now I want you to do it." But, passing one afternoon on his way home from Binghampton, he thought he would drop in to see how teacher and pupils were getting on. The grammar class was called, and a book was politely handed him. Now, Mr. Church never studied grammar but half a day in his whole life; but he made immense progress in that short time. It used to be the case that the less one had studied grammar the more positive he was that it was of no utility, and in order to respect his positiveness he had to convince himself that he knew a good deal on the subject. But not so with a ready learner like Mr. Church. That half-day's ramble with Lindley Murray among nouns and pronouns and their fellows of speech had disclosed imponderable mysteries to his view; but he still has a lurking recollection that the subject was "dry." The teacher and the class got into a protracted dispute involving some question on the lesson, and to settle it the former appealed to Mr. Church, whose diplomatic answer was, "You are correct; that is the way it should be parsed." This response killed the controversy "as dead as a door nail." That night he told Wheat of his shrewd escape, and was complimented no less for his foresight in avoiding the part of principal in the argument than for his ability to use all that he had learned in half a day's study of grammar.

In an early day an irregular select school was kept at Rocky Ford. Amboy township now comprises ten districts, and in 1879 the total school expenditures were \$8,284.

#### RELIGIOUS.

The frontier itinerant was a truly divine laborer. Courage and industry were the preëminent virtues of his activity. His circuit embraced what would now seem an incredible extent of country, and he did well if he served all his appointments once every month. To defy distance and weather was a regular habit. He usually traveled on horseback, carrying, in capacious saddle-bags, a small bible, a hymn book, and a homely luncheon. Often he would ride thirty miles to preach a funeral sermon, and forty or fifty to marry a couple for three dollars. But he did not scorn privations and overcome obstacles for money; it was a pleasure to be about his Master's work. He grew strong in view of the great field and the waiting harvest, and his soul was animated by the simple joy and hearty salutations which the warm hearts of the people always expressed at his coming. But before circuits were formed the zealous messengers of the truth rode through the wilderness visiting the scattered settlements and carrying the healing news of the Good Shepherd. His arrival was the signal for word



to go forth like a swift joy in every direction to summon together the hungry souls. Meetings were held in the cabins, and in God's first temples, the groves. On these occasions full hearts rendered thanks to God for the preservation of life and health of the minister of peace, and the hardy settlers from the abounding dangers of the exposed frontier, and appealed in earnest invocations for his continued grace and precious mercy, and deliverance from the distemper of the soul — sin. Then, with the service over, he departed on his rugged journey, refreshed with the hospitality of his full-souled entertainers, and laden with the provisions which the thoughtful housewife had prepared for his comfort, bearing on his head their blessings, and followed by silent prayers for his safety and return.

The first minister around whom the early settlers gathered for gospel instruction was Father Gorbus, a Methodist preacher well advanced in years, who came from Indian creek. At this early period denominations exerted no influence; congregations were composed of every sect and those who represented no sect, all feeling and acknowledging a common necessity for worship. Father Gorbus received his pay in provisions, such as potatoes, and meat, and flour.

Money was not plentiful. It was a commodity little seen, and for many years commanded an annual rate not less than twenty-five per cent.

As an instance of the dearness of money and the cheapness of stock, produce, and labor, F. H. Northway says he tried to redeem his note for \$3.75, in the hands of a neighbor, by offering a yearling steer, two shoats weighing 125 pounds each, and two days' work. This was declined, and he was sued.

A German Baptist, Father Hetchler, came very early, perhaps was next to Father Gorbus. It is thought that Rev. Curtis Lathrop, a Methodist, was the third, and that Father White, another Methodist, was the fourth; but regarding order we do not profess any certainty. Elder DeWolf was an educated Episcopalian, who settled on the Chicago road, between Dixon and Inlet Grove, but after a few years returned to the east. In 1843 the Rev. Donaldson, from Dover, who preached here at times, assisted in organizing the first Congregational church in Lee county, at the house of Deacon Moses Crombie. This was called the "Congregational Church of Palestine Grove," and the members worshiped several years at the Wasson school-house. The Rev. John Morrell, the first pastor, was followed by the Rev. Ingersoll (father of Col. Robert G. Ingersoll), and he was succeeded by the Rev. Joseph Gardiner and the Rev. Mr. Pierson. About 1849 this congregation removed its place of worship to Lee Center, and changed the name of the society to that of the new locality. From this the present Amboy society has descended. What is known of the first



Methodist society is recorded in the sketch of Binghamton. Another very early organization was the Palestine Grove Baptist church, but we are not able to state what year it took regular form. The Rev. Charles Cross, now living in Amboy township, became the regular pastor in 1847, and filled the pulpit some time. The membership was located on both sides of the grove, and when Amboy and Sublette were built the society naturally broke in two, and the parts gravitated to these towns. The records were retained by the Sublette division.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints obtained a foothold and a large membership at an early date. The first preacher to come was William Anderson, who got permission to preach in John Hook's house. Traveling preachers came along at intervals, and something of a band was formed, which grew to considerable proportions in a short while. Any reference to this sect will lead us to tell the story of the prophet's arrest in this township. His wife, before marriage, was Emma Hale, sister to Alva Hale, of Sublette, and David Hale and Mrs. Benjamin Wasson, of Amboy. In the community were acquaintances of Smith's boyhood, and one at least, Uncle Asa Searles, had been a school-fellow. Occasionally Smith visited his friends in the vicinity of Palestine Grove, and the presence of his followers, who numbered some of the most respectable families, made his journeys here doubly pleasurable. At such times he always preached, and the people came to the log school-house situated on the Sublette road, a few rods south of where the railroad is, to listen to his vehement oratory. It is more than probable that his visits were prompted by other motives than pleasure and duty, for when the saints were driven in vengeance from Missouri, the leaders, including the prophet, were tried before a drum-head court-martial and sentenced to be shot for treason, but were saved from this mobbish proceeding by the humane intervention of Gen. Doniphan, who afterward became justly celebrated for his brilliant achievements during the Mexican war. These men were held in custody for trial, on charges of theft, arson, treason and murder, but escaped and came to Nauvoo. In the autumn of 1841 the governor of Missouri made a requisition on Gov. Carlin, of this state, for the delivery of the fugitives. A writ was issued, but being soon after returned unexecuted, Gov. Carlin again placed it in the hands of an officer, and Smith was this time arrested. He was taken before Judge Douglas, who was then sitting on the supreme bench, and discharged upon a writ of habeas corpus, "upon the ground that the writ upon which he had been arrested had been once returned before it was executed, and was *functus officio*." The next year the governor issued a new writ, and "Smith was arrested again, and was either rescued by his followers or discharged by the municipal court [a Mormon tribunal] on a writ of

habeas corpus." In his "History of Illinois," Gov. Ford has given a circumstantial relation of these arrests, and we follow his account, injecting such further particulars as we have reason to believe are authentic. In June, 1843, the governor of Missouri renewed his demand for the arrest and surrender of Smith, and accordingly "a new warrant, in pursuance of the constitution of the United States, was issued, and placed in the hands of a constable in Hancock. This constable and the Missouri agent hastened to Nauvoo to make the arrest, where they ascertained that Joe Smith was on a visit to Rock river. They pursued him thither, and succeeded in arresting him in Palestine Grove, in the county of Lee." Mrs. Smith was here visiting her relations, and the prophet, as was natural for him to do, had joined her, and had spoken once at the log school-house, in a Sunday discussion with a Methodist preacher named Headly, regarding the authenticity of the "Book of Mormon." The next day he was called upon by these two men, and on being told that they had a warrant for him, he forcibly undertook to contest their ability to make him prisoner. "He was full six feet high, strongly built, and uncommonly well muscled," and with the two united against him the struggle that followed was a desperate one. He was at length overpowered, but not till all had received bruises enough to show that each had been in the 'thickest of the fight.'"

This episode occasioned the wildest excitement; the people suspected the legality of the arrest, and were not sure that it was not a ruse to get him away where he could be made the victim of insult and violence. A crowd followed to Dixon to insure fair play, and finally consented for the captors to depart with their prisoner without opposition. "The constable immediately delivered his prisoner to the Missouri agent, and returned his warrant as having been executed. The agent started with his prisoner in the direction of Missouri, but on the road was met by a number of armed Mormons, who captured the whole party, and conducted them in the direction of Nauvoo. Further on they were met by hundreds of the Mormons, coming to the rescue of their prophet, who conducted him in grand triumph to his own city." A writ of habeas corpus was sued out of the municipal court "composed of Joe Smith's tools and particular friends," and by this court he was discharged. A year later he and his brother Hiram were basely murdered by an infuriated and cowardly mob; and as soon as the twelve apostles who were absent on missionary work, could return, they, with Brigham Young at their head, usurped the government of the church. Numbers of Smith's followers had become disaffected before his death; the ranks of these were now augmented by considerable accessions, and a schism of no little importance was the

result. Many of those who withdrew had to make their escape secretly to save their property, and they formed the nucleus of the reorganized church, which abjures polygamy. By these the claim is made that the prophet was not a patron of spiritual wifeism, but this is not to be at once admitted.

Aaron Hook, who had lived at Nauvoo and been ordained an elder, returned to Rocky Ford to take up his residence; he sometimes preached, and was an influential man among those of his faith. About the time of the hegira to Salt Lake, William Smith, a brother to the prophet, came among the saints at the Ford and organized a branch. He claimed to be a representative of the younger Joseph, son of the prophet and a mere lad, and that it was his duty to rule and direct the people until the latter should assume the first place, or prophetship, in the church. Smith remained here awhile preaching and extending his congregation until it numbered no fewer than sixty souls. The company was swelled by arrivals from Ohio and other places. Aaron Hook fitted up his house with a hall which was used for their services. They laid out a town on the ridge north of Rocky Ford, and at one time there was talk of building a temple, but the conception was never carried out. In course of time Smith got into bad odor with outsiders, and was once arrested for bigamy, but was not convicted, and in a little while he removed to other parts. The branch he had established lost its energy after his departure. Besides the Hooks, Edwin Cadwell who came to the township in 1848, and is still living here, has been a leading and respected Mormon. Wentworth Blair, Stephen Stone and his father, and David L. Doan belong to the same category.

The further history of the sect in this place is uneventful until the year 1860, when, on April 6, the anniversary of the founding of the church, the annual conference assembled in Amboy, with representatives from the different branches in Iowa, Michigan, and this state; and Joseph Smith, jr., of Plano, was solemnly installed prophet and high priest in the old Mechanics' hall. Two conferences are held annually; for several years the spring gathering met at Amboy and the autumnal meeting in Iowa. Conversions and additions to the church have been made at different times, and the society has a membership of about forty. Joseph Smith, jr., who is a highly respected man, resides at Plano, where the headquarters of the church are established and the publications issued. Removal to Iowa is decided upon for this year.

#### BINGHAMTON.

This town was laid out in the S.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 14, T. 21 N., R. 10 E. of the 4th P.M., in April 1848, by the proprietor, Asa B. Searles, and named in honor of the city of that name, county seat of Broome county,



LEWIS CLAPP





New York, from which county a large number of the first settlers in this vicinity emigrated. Some lots were at the same time laid off on the S.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 13 for Warren Badger as part of the town. Mr. Searles built and kept the Binghamton House, and also erected a store and took Edward Waters into partnership. Henry Porter bought them out, and he in turn sold to the Union Company, a coöperative concern run on the stock principle and conducted by James H. Preston. While Mr. Searles was keeping public house, Robert G. Ingersoll, the now celebrated orator and infidel, then about sixteen years of age, was his man-of-all-work on the premises a full year. The Ingersoll family lived in the neighborhood three years from about 1846; the father was Congregational minister, and he and the boys, John, Ebon and Bob, farmed some on rented land. The latter, we are told, was a live boy, full of fun and stories. In 1844 a flouring-mill, the first built in Lee county, was raised here by John Dexter and the Badger brothers, Warren and Palmer. The latter was crushed and killed by a bank of earth falling upon him, and his place in the partnership was taken by Chester Badger. In 1858 he (Chester) and his brother Henry purchased the property, and in the following winter introduced steam power. On Thursday night, July 18, 1872, it was burned to the ground, and the proprietors sustained a loss of \$6,000, the sum of \$8,000 being covered by insurance. It was at once rebuilt, and Chester Badger sold his interest to H. E. Badger & Son, who operated it until its late destruction. It was struck and set on fire by lightning in the evening of July 21, 1881; the value of mill and stock was \$16,000, with an insurance of \$6,000. This mill was furnished with all the modern improvements, was run both by water and steam, and its destruction was not only a heavy loss to the owners, but a serious one also to the community.

James Doan set up a plow factory, but after a year sold to Frederick Bainter; and in 1846 another was started by the Shaws and Churches. In 1851 H. E. Badger entered into partnership with Bainter, but they soon dissolved, and the next year the manufacture was continued by Henry and Chester Badger, while Bainter carried on another shop. In 1854 James Dexter built a saw-mill. David Crocker and David Searles, partners, and Warren Badger were storekeepers not before mentioned. Besides the "Binghamton," there was another place of public entertainment known as the "Reed House." The town had two custom blacksmiths, a shoemaker, one wagon shop and a carding machine. After the mail and stage route was changed and the postoffice removed from Shelburn to Binghamton in 1850 this became a brisk place of trade and manufacture, whose crowded hotels were an index of the great travel by this route.

About 1840 a Methodist class was organized in this settlement, and among the original members were Joseph Doan, Curtis Bridgman, Andrew Bainter, and their wives, and Aunt Betsy Doan. Frederick Bainter, Joseph Lewis, Henry E. Badger and their wives were leading members. This society was in the Lee Center circuit, and in 1851 they erected a house of worship in this town. When Amboy sprang into existence H. E. Badger purchased the building, and another was reared in the rising city. That was used a few years and then sold to the district for a school-house.

Binghamton is situated a mile east of Amboy, and certainly it was not expected that she would never languish like all old-time towns which the modern system of travel has failed to rescue from decay, but nevertheless she has carried herself proudly in her desolation. The only business interest of which she is not now bereft is the plow factory of W. I. Fish, if we except the Amboy Drain Tile and Brick Works erected the present season by Wightwick & Stone less than half a mile north of the place. These works represent a growing and important industry, which is destined to exercise an influence in the development of wealth beyond all calculation. The main building is 50×100 feet, two stories high, and the facilities for burning include four of Tiffany's patent square, down-draft kilns, all under one roof, so arranged as to utilize the waste heat of the kiln while cooling in firing the next. Tiffany's Centennial Tiffany Brick and Tile Machine is the one used for moulding, and this is propelled by a Siamese Twins Duplex engine of twenty-horse power. The fixtures are all of the latest pattern, and comprise some very recent novel and valuable improvements. Messrs. Wightwick & Stone intend to operate the year round by means of steam drying in winter, which will give their factory a capacity of 2,000,000 tiles annually. Additions to their works are to be made in the near future.

The first interment in the cemetery at this town was Patience, wife of A. B. Searles, who died December 19, 1846. The place was used as a common burial lot until March 1856, when the Binghamton Cemetery Association was formed, and a piece of land bought from Mr. Searles and put under fence. Three soldiers of the late war are buried here: Otis Bridgman, who enlisted at Amboy, May 1861, in Co. C, 13th Ill. Vols., served three years, and died of disease contracted in the service; John Bainter, whose enlistment was the same in all respects, was mustered out January 15, 1864, and died from the same cause March 24; and John Lewis, who enlisted in Co. G, 39th Ill. Vols. (Yates' phalanx), at Amboy, in August 1861, served on the Peninsula campaign, was discharged, and died November 22, 1864, of disease contracted in the army.

## ROCKY FORD AND SHELburn.

This place was one of the earliest settled in the township, and for many years was the central point of interest. The ford has made it a crossing-place from time immemorial. The Indian trail from Council Bluffs to Chicago crossed here; and in the time of the Black Hawk war the command under Maj. Stillman forded the stream at this point on their way to gather laurels at Stillman's Run. Timothy Perkins is generally credited with having been the first permanent settler. In company with Horace Bowen he erected a saw-mill which passed successively into the hands of Lee, Mason, Van Norman, and Dutcher. Van Norman was a relic of the Patriot war in Canada (1836-8), where he suffered imprisonment, but escaping in the summer of 1837 reached Dixon. He took a contract of grading on the old Central railroad at this point, which brought him here as a resident. The Peru and Galena road, which passed this place, was a stage route some years, and after the completion of the canal was a highway of heavy traffic and travel. In 1848 Frederick Dutcher bought the property from Daniel Mason and Horace Stump, and the next year platted the village of Shelburn, making the creek divide it through the center. Immediately on laying out the place he erected a small distillery on the south bank, and in 1853 added a store. He was followed a year afterward by Jacob Doan, who put up another store. A few houses were built, and eventually the town came to be one where a very large business was transacted. The large flouring-mill and distillery combined, whose erection was begun in 1856 by the Shelburn Manufacturing Company, of which Mr. Dutcher was president, was the main feature which kept the place alive. The structure was built of stone, the mill proper being 60×60 feet, four stories high, and the distillery 40×140, two and one-half stories. The dam was of masonry, and the cost of the whole property \$65,000. The late Col. Wyman was a prominent member of this company. In 1859 an explosion threw down part of the south wall of the building, and projected the boiler thirty rods, landing it south of the creek. John Bentley, the engineer, was seriously injured, and the loss was \$4,000. About ten years afterward the building was destroyed by fire.

Postal facilities were obtained after a few years, but at first the nearest post-office was at Dixon. Asa B. Searles was the first postmaster in this township, and was appointed by Amos Kendall about 1840. The office was kept at his house. His second incumbency was under Polk at the time he was keeping store at Binghamton. He resigned, and was succeeded by Warren Badger. The first north-and-south route of travel through this section was from Galena to Peoria, *via* Dixon, but it was at length changed to Peru. In 1842 it became a



mail-route, and the carrier, a Dutelman, made the trip on horseback every week without failure during the year, stopping at John Hook's Monday nights as he went north, and Friday nights as he went south. The next year Frink & Walker put on a line of stages and carried the mail, and about two years after that Andruss & Dixon started an opposition line. The Shelburn post-office was established, with Mr. Dutcher as postmaster, but in the rivalry between this place and Binghamton the latter procured the removal of the office, and the diversion of the stage-route to that point. This was too mortifying to be endured, and about as soon as it could be done the office was renewed under the name of Equator. By the removal of buildings and loss by fire and flood Shelburn has nearly disappeared.

#### CITY OF AMBOY.

This embowered little city, second in size in Lee county, containing nearly 2,500 inhabitants, is situated in the Green River valley at the intersection of the Illinois Central and the Rock River branch of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railroad, and is overlooked from north and south by beautiful stretches of country which gradually rise to elevations of almost seventy feet. The first beginnings on the site of this place were made in 1838 by John Sawyer, who built a cabin on the bank of the creek; and Cyrus Davis, who erected another just in front of where the Baptist church stands on Mason street. Davis built the first frame house, which was begun in the fall of 1845, and finished the next spring. This stood in the street when the town was platted, but was moved to the east side where it is still used as a dwelling. Sawyer sold his claim to Joseph Farwell and Joseph B. Appleton. Farwell came in 1841 and built where Lucius Clark's residence stands on the corner of Main street and Adams avenue, and his farm was the N.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 22. Appleton settled here permanently in 1844, but first came as an unmarried man two or three years prior to that date. The homestead is situated in the west part of the town. He built the second frame house. Josiah M. Davis and his father Joel, who settled here about 1848, lived close to the western limits.

This city is the off-spring of the Central railroad. In the early summer of 1851 the surveying parties under the chief engineer, Roswell B. Mason, took their several stations on the line and immediately began preliminary operations. T. B. Blackstone, whose name has been given to one of the streets in the original town, had charge of the squad employed between Dixon and Bloomington. In December 1852 K. F. Booth, for several years afterward a resident of Amboy, came to this place at the head of a small party whose business was to direct the work on this part of the route. A company, distinct from

the Illinois Central Railroad Company, but composed in part, if not wholly, of stockholders in the latter, purchased and owned the land for the village plats along the road. They bought the Lay farm for a depot and station two miles above here in the direction of Dixon, which was subsequently sold to a conductor named Cole. They gave out word that the company would erect machine shops at that point: a few loads of stone were hauled there, and the place named Kepatau. If there was ever any real intention of making a station and building shops there it was of very brief duration. H. B. Judkins came down one day, and securing the company of a certain influential citizen, went to Farwell, and pretending to be a returned Californian, said he wanted to buy a stock-farm, and a bargain was forthwith made for the "Farwell slough farm," as old settlers had named it, for \$13 per acre. John B. Wyman, assistant superintendent of the road, hastened to buy out Cyrus Davis, and then Farwell was given to understand that if he had any wish to secure himself he should lose no time in doing it, and he accordingly purchased the farm from his son-in-law, Curtis Bridgman. The land company made a deed of trust to Messrs. Ketchum and Gray; and Col. Mason, who was superintendent as well as chief engineer of road, acted as their attorney.

In June, 1853, Michael Egan was sent to this place to commence the mason work on the station buildings, and in the autumn of the same year D. S. Clark was put in charge of the carpenter work. Some time during the season Mr. Booth prepared the plans for the machine shops, and Mr. Egan laid the foundations and pushed the construction with his characteristic energy throughout the following winter. In the spring the walls of the passenger house were up and the building inclosed; in course of the summer both that and the freight house were completed, and before winter the machine shops were in a forward state of progress. Most of the other shops which the company now have were built in the following year, 1855.

The year 1854 was the natal year of Amboy. In January or February a Frenchman by the name of Meyer, under the directions of Col. Mason, came and laid out the town, completing his survey March 24. On July 26 the first bonds for deeds were executed. John L. Skinner was the first purchaser of lots. He paid \$600 for the northeast corner lot on Main street and East avenue, now occupied by the Badger building. On this he began the erection of the Orient House in the fall of 1854; in September, 1855, it was completed, and opened to the public by the Lee brothers, who were proprietors one year under lease. Charles W. Bell, who had been grading on the road nearly a year, in August, 1853, came here with his family and opened a boarding-house for railroad men in a mammoth, barn-like shanty belonging to the company,

and which had been erected near the spot where the Baptist church stands. On January 21 this caught fire and burned down, but was immediately rebuilt by the company. When Mr. Bell settled in the place Cyrus Davis had moved away; Appleton was on the homestead; Farwell was about to move, or had just moved to his new purchase; Alvan H. Thompson was living at his old home where Superintendent Jacobs resides; and a transient family occupied the Davis dwelling. These comprised the population of Amboy, which, by the way, was not yet surveyed and christened, except some railroad employés who could not at that time be regarded as settlers. Isaac Edwards, who graded seven miles of the railroad, settled temporarily south of the Inlet this year.

By the following spring K. F. Booth, D. S. Clark, and Michael Egan were occupying residences with their families; and from this time the place made rapid growth after the nervous fashion of western towns. The "live Yankees" began to pour in, and their partiality for the location at once decided the complexion of society. All available room was speedily secured; every shingle covered a boarder, and the demand for lodgings was as unfortunate as Oliver Twist's cry for "more." The science of storing away was grasped and learned, and every house was crammed to its utmost capacity from ground to garret. Boxes and trunks were piled one above another against the walls to make room to spread the tables for meals, and for the beds upon the floors at night. This was nearing first principles, still these people found more pleasures than hardships, for virtuous freedom may always be enjoyed, and never so much as when those who voluntarily come together with a common purpose have more wants than privileges to divide. "Roughing it," never unmingled with a certain excitement, had its fascinations, and was encountered with a relish. Busy thoughts and hands and light hearts brought health and zest to every individual, and when people came together, as they often sought and had occasion to do, joy and mirth were spontaneous and unconfined. Amusements were not wanting; and though rude and simple, they served the goodly end of recreation, and kept men from base employments. Dancing, the favorite, was indulged with the fondness of early days. After supper was over and dusk had come, the room was cleared of chairs and tables by piling them up out of doors, and from that time till morning was nigh the cheerful voices of the violin and flute were blended in the pleasing strains of the Fisher's Hornpipe, the Arkansaw Traveler, and other familiar pieces; and Virginia reels and other figures were executed by never wearying feet. The already quickened energies of the people took a new impulse in the whirl of labor and business into which everybody plunged with an absorbing ambition



for the fruits of industry and improved opportunities. Men came with their families, and failing to find lodgings, hastily put up rough shanties to guard them from the weather, until more durable buildings could be erected; and as a matter of fact the earliest structures, though designed to be permanent, were raised in the briefest possible time, and were not of the most substantial character.

The original plat of the town was on the N.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 22, the Farwell farm. Wyman's addition was next laid out on the S.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 15, the Cyrus Davis farm, J. B. Wyman, H. C. Purple, and others, being the proprietors. Farwell surveyed a part of his land into lots, and Gilson & Ransom, of La Salle, bought an undivided half of Appleton's land and laid off Gilson's addition. A lively strife at once ensued among these rival interests. Wyman was selling residence property, and having a brisk trade. The land company was disposing of business lots on Main street and East avenue, and it seemed almost fated that the center of trade would be in that locality. The interest of the other parties lay in drawing the town, or an equal share of it, to the west side. To compass this end, in the spring of 1855 Gilson & Ransom erected the Exchange block, a large wooden structure divided into six or seven business compartments below, and a number of offices and dwelling-rooms above. This occupied lots Nos. 2, 3, and 4 in block 14, Gilson's addition. At the same time Farwell built the hall which bore his name, on lot 8, block 7, north side of Division street. No building associated with the early history of the town will call up such a variety of recollections as Farwell hall; for it was at once public hall, polling place, school-house, and everybody's meeting-house. For a while the prospects and advantages were somewhat equalized, though there was no time when there was not an unequal rivalry.

Let us drop the growth of the business quarter long enough to notice the erection of the earliest private houses. The two first were built simultaneously in the summer of 1854, on the north side of Main street, east of Mason, by L. W. Borden and E. S. Reynolds. The latter moved into his in August. Dr. David Bainter built the third, but claims to have been the first to move into the town after it was platted. Mr. Reynolds makes the same claim also for himself. This was situated on the southeast corner of Jones and Division streets, and here Bainter & Co., oculists, aurists and Indian doctors, had their office on the lower floor, and their art gallery on the upper one. Following these initial buildings others went up rapidly, the music of saws and planes and the clangor of hammers resounding on every street. The business prospects of the place were flattering. The railroad works in progress contributed generously to this progress; and people crowded into the town to the overflowing of accommodations,



and as a consequence rents advanced exorbitantly, and persons seeking board were knocking at every door. By the next spring the inhabitants of the town were estimated at 1,000.

R. D. Peironett and Samuel Goldman were the first to start in what had the semblance of mercantile business. Peironett opened a little rough-board shop in the spring of 1854, in which he kept a small stock of common articles; and Goldman, who had been peddling clothing through the country since 1851, set up in trade on East avenue, somewhat later, in a shanty which a dozen men could pick up and carry away. He became a leading citizen, and acquired a large competence; and in 1870 retired from active business and settled in Chicago, where he died a year ago. In the spring of the same year Josiah Little, in searching for a location, reached this place, and deciding to make it his home, proceeded to erect a store, the first which could be dignified with the name, on lot 8, block 3, original plat. The stone was brought from Lee Center and the lumber from Mendota. In October it was completed and filled with drugs, hardware and groceries. Messrs. Wilcox & Wooster built a store the same fall on the ground now owned and occupied by L. Bourne, on East avenue. The lumber for this was hauled from Mendota. They traded in dry-goods and groceries a year, when A. H. Wooster bought Wilcox's interest, and the new firm continued the business at the old stand another year. Meantime they had purchased the lot on the east corner of Main and Jones streets, at present covered by the Merrifield building, and erected a store. The autumn of 1854 found E. & J. Little, and the Union store which had been moved from Binghamton, and was conducted by J. H. Preston, and Cornelius Allen, harness-maker, on the north side of Main street, with Warriner & Beresford, lumber merchants, on the south side. Wilcox & Wooster, Samuel Goldman, and Paul Cullen, the latter keeping groceries and liquors, were in trade on East avenue. Between this time and the spring of 1856 the following firms and persons were identified with the development of business: Gnybort & Hynes, Cyrus Bridgman & Bro., Walton & Kizer, Rosenbaum & Walton, and Carson & Pirie, who began with groceries in the store built by Wilcox & Wooster, and afterward extended their business to dry-goods in an adjoining house, and carried on a large and successful cash business till 1865, when they removed to Chicago and engaged in the wholesale trade. G. H. McFatrach built a business house in the spring of 1855 on Main street, on the present site of Wheat & Gridley's store. A. & C. D. Vaughan, furniture dealers and undertakers, set up on Mason street, nearly opposite the present Methodist church. J. D. Waddell, furniture and undertaking, built two storerooms on the south side of Main street. On August 25, 1860, while hunting, he was accidentally

shot and killed. R. H. Mellen went to manufacturing lumber in the spring of 1855. James Boyd started in lumber and grain, and after figuring largely for a short time, moved away. C. D. Sears & Co. opened a lumber yard and built a planing-mill and sash and door factory. G. H. Ambrose and Francis Little, grain dealers at first, afterward started a private bank. Henry Keeling, from New Orleans, opened a hardware store in company with John Scolly. He has been a prominent business man and citizen, and in 1865 built Keeling's block on East avenue. Isaac Edwards began, and has since carried on, the livery business. Briggs & Cushing sold drugs and groceries. C. M. Butler and Robert Merrigold formed a copartnership in lumber and grain. T. J. King, grocer; Badger Bros., N. S. Chase, first in clothing, afterward hardware; Philip Flach, barber; Jacob Kline, baker; Abram Jackson, baker and confectioner; Ashford & Cook and George Keefer, butchers; and Mrs. W. B. Andruss, artist, who occupied rooms in the Exchange block. No. 33, Vol. I, of the "Lee County Times," published February 7, 1856, the earliest paper on file in the "Amboy Journal" office, contains advertisements of business men and others not already mentioned, as follows: Clark & Watson, clothing; Wm. B. Stuart, attorney-at-law, city auctioneer and land agent; W. E. Ives, attorney; H. M. Snow, Doane & Quinn, meat market; W. E. Ives, assignee of Peironett & Reed; W. H. Allen, music store; E. W. McLean, general store; Mead & Hall: dissolution notice of J. W. D. Blake & Co.; Alexander Martin; G. R. McKinney, general merchandise; Drs. T. P. Sleeper and J. A. Jackson; James Boyd, land agent; Illinois Central railroad time table, James C. Clark, superintendent; Mrs. Gosden, milliner; A. S. Pierce, boots and shoes; H. F. & E. D. Walker, hardware; James C. Wheat, carpenter and joiner; Gilson & Ransom, land agents; J. Carroll, tailor; Thomas Adamson, jeweler; Illinois Central house, J. B. Wyman, proprietor; Egan & Booth, grocers; Alex. Zubrod, grocer; A. E. Wilcox, grain; J. H. Wisner, livery; W. H. Brackett & Co., blacksmiths; P. Vogt, shoemaker; Reed & Pond, hides and grain; and Amboy Lodge, No. 179, I.O.O.F. Among a large number of mechanics, many of whom were in the employ of the Central railroad company, we may mention in addition the following: Lucius Clarke, Nicholas Koontz, and Harvey and Levi Ives, carpenters; George W. Mingle, shoemaker; and a man named Hines, blacksmith. Henry Chapin erected, in the fall of 1855, the first blacksmith shop east of the railroad, and the second one in the town. Considerable of the business was on the west side, and Exchange block was for some time all occupied. But Gilson died early, before realizing a fruition of his plans; the efforts on behalf of that part of the town grew feebler; and seeing the drift of trade setting

steadily and more strongly in the other direction, the dealers one by one deserted that quarter, like rats abandoning a sinking craft. A part of the now solitary building was torn down, and the remainder was leveled by fire. Amboy grew rapidly through 1856, and maintained a steady increase until the breaking out of the war. In speaking of the progress of the town, the "Times," in its issue of July 31, 1856, sums up its development thus: "We have now between 2,000 and 3,000 inhabitants, two churches and another in process of construction, about thirty stores and groceries, a steam planing-mill and sash factory, three hotels, two livery stables, and in fact establishments of almost every variety." The estimate of population is too indeterminate to be of much value now, though it served well enough the purposes of local pride at that time; and "groceries" includes several drinking shops, whose combined effect has been an ample harvest of crime and woe in accidents, disasters and tragedies.

David Bainter was the first doctor to locate in the new town. Dr. Harmon Wasson lived just beyond the limits. J. A. Jackson came in the autumn of 1854. T. P. Sleeper, who was mostly employed in dentistry, arrived in 1855. Vaughan, a young physician, and brother to C. D. Vaughan, and A. P. Chase the next year; and McFatrish still later. The healing art is at present represented by Drs. Ryon, Felker, Travers, Wilcox, Manning and Saguin. Dr. George Deming practices dentistry.

The Amboy bar has been composed of men of respectable legal talent. William E. Ives, the oldest practicing attorney in the county, settled here in December 1854, and was the first to hang out a sign in the place. Alfred Tooker and James H. Felch, partners, came next; and in 1855 Alonzo Kinyon, one of the most marked men that Lee county has had, settled here, read law, and began practice in this place. Although lacking in the advantages of education, he possessed large intellectuality and great energy of character, and added to these natural endowments habits of ceaseless and rugged industry. By force of will and activity his success was solid and conspicuous. In politics he was a republican, and an active man in his party; and in 1868 was elected representative to the general assembly. The principal measures passed by that body, as the result of his labors, were a charter for the Chicago & Rock River railroad; and another act creating "The Court of Common Pleas of the City of Amboy," to have concurrent jurisdiction in the city of Amboy with the circuit court of Lee county in all cases, civil and criminal, except murder and treason. In April, 1869, Mr. Kinyon was elected judge of this court for a term of four years, with an annual salary of \$3,500; and C. D. Vaughan was elected clerk. In February, 1874, the act establishing the court was repealed. In the



early history of the town Mr. Kinyon was largely engaged in building, and in no small degree increased its growth and accommodations.

Enos J. Ives and William B. Stuart were attorneys in practice here when the town was first started. The latter was a pioneer of the county, and is still a resident of Amboy. In 1858 B. H. Trusdell, a young lawyer from New Jersey, settled here in practice and still resides in the place. He was elected to the legislature by the democrats for one term, and served the county with credit. E. Southwick, a lawyer of ability, and some note, lived here, and died just before Mr. Trusdell came. N. H. Ryan was another early lawyer. He also went from this county to the legislature. An attorney by the name of Ryon formed a partnership with Mr. Kinyon when the latter commenced to practice. Ryon's stay did not exceed two years. J. E. Lewis, C. E. Ives, C. H. Wooster and T. P. Duffy have all been admitted here, and represent the later generation.

#### INCORPORATION.

In the winter of 1854-5 Amboy became a town under the general incorporation law, and Deacon Allen E. Wilcox was president of the first board of trustees. H. B. Judkins was president and Dr. J. A. Jackson clerk of the second and last board. In the autumn of 1856 agitation for a city organization was begun, and on the 23d of December a meeting of citizens was held at Mechanics' Hall to consider the subject. A. E. Wilcox was called to the chair and W. M. Taylor chosen secretary. J. B. Wyman, W. E. Ives, A. Kinyon, E. Southwick and John L. Skinner were appointed a committee to present a form of charter at an adjourned meeting on the 30th. This was held at the Orient House, and the charter reported was adopted by sections, and then as a whole. A committee consisting of J. B. Wyman, W. E. Ives and J. V. H. Judd was selected to lay it before the legislature and urge its passage. It was enacted and approved February 16, 1857, and adopted at an election held for the purpose on the 2d of March. The city limits were defined as "the south half of section fifteen and the north half of section twenty-two, in township twenty north, of range ten east of the fourth principal meridian; also that part of section twenty-three which embraces Arnold's addition." Taylor and Davis' addition has since been annexed. Two amendments have been made to the charter, the first in 1867, and the last in 1869. The city government comprises a mayor and a council consisting of eight aldermen, elected from four wards, a marshal, a treasurer, an attorney and a clerk.

The first charter election was held on the 8th, and the following persons were chosen to fill the several offices: John B. Wyman, mayor; Orange D. Reed, marshal; S. S. Stedman and E. S. Reynolds,



aldermen of the first ward; J. R. Stevens and F. B. Little, aldermen of the second ward; and J. M. Davis and J. A. Jackson, aldermen of the third ward. 234 votes were cast. The officers were installed on the 16th, and the council elected Daniel T. Wood, clerk; W. E. Ives, attorney; A. E. Wilcox, assessor; W. B. Andrews, collector; Edward Little, treasurer; and Arthur Pond, surveyor.

The council passed an ordinance September 8, 1857, creating a fire department, but this was never of any service to the city; and by beguiling it into fancied security paralyzed all attempts to make it efficient. Not until the fire demon had several times lapped up the business quarter of the city were earnest efforts made to render property reasonably secure against destruction. After the disastrous fire of August 25, 1871, prompt measures were taken to provide the city with suitable and efficient fire apparatus. A third-class Silsby steam fire engine, and a hose carriage with 500 feet of hose were contracted for at a cost of \$5,050. This apparatus was delivered to and accepted by the city authorities in November 1871. The Vigilant Fire Company was organized November 18, with the following officers: A. B. Huston, foreman; J. H. Stott, assistant foreman of engine; H. E. Donnell, foreman of hose; C. H. Bunker, assistant foreman of hose; E. H. Thresher, secretary; and George Stimpson, treasurer. The officers of the fire department were as follows: B. B. Howard, chief engineer; W. W. Powell, assistant engineer; M. A. Brewer, engineer of steamer; and Daniel Maloney, fire warden. The Vigilant Fire Company, than which none could be more effective, was in active service until August 5, 1873, when it withdrew from the fire department of Amboy. Immediately "Amboy Fire Company No. 1" was organized, and the following day reported to the council. It has twenty-six members, and the following are the officers: Chas. Walker, captain; James Morris, assistant captain; Edward Smith, foreman of hose; Wm. Wells, assistant foreman; Frank Almy, secretary; and David Shafer, treasurer.

In the autumn of 1864 the city erected a two-story building in the business row on the south side of Main street for a council room, and a hall for an engine company, when such an organization as the latter should be formed. In October, 1870, a cell built of solid masonry was put into the building, and in the great fire the following year a prisoner confined over night for a trifling offense was literally roasted alive, a cruel because unnecessary tragedy, occurring by reason of the criminal thoughtlessness of the officer. This hall was immediately rebuilt. On the first floor is the engine room and calaboose, and on the second the council meets. This body first occupied the new building Friday evening, February 2, 1872.

The following is a list of the mayors and clerks of the city :

	MAYORS.	CLERKS.
1857	J. B. Wyman.	D. T. Wood.
1858	John R. Stevens.	W. B. Andruss.
1859	James Rosebrugh.	W. B. Andruss.
1860	J. B. Wyman.	R. H. Mellen.
1861	W. E. Ives.	R. H. Mellen.
1862	W. E. Ives.	W. C. Sears.
1863	W. E. Ives.	W. C. Sears.
1864	C. M. Butler.	H. G. Pratt.
1865	C. M. Butler.	N. H. Ryan.
1866	C. D. Vaughan.	N. H. Ryan.
1867	C. D. Vaughan.	N. H. Ryan.
1868	Michael Egan.	Lee Cronkrite.
1869	Michael Egan.	Lee Cronkrite.
1870	Michael Egan.	Everett E. Chase.
1871	Isaac Edwards.	Everett E. Chase.
1872	Isaac Edwards.	Everett E. Chase.
1873	Isaac Edwards.	Everett E. Chase.
1874	Robert Richards.	Everett E. Chase.
1875	Isaac Edwards.	Everett E. Chase.
1876	Isaac Edwards.	Everett E. Chase.
1877	Isaac Edwards.	Everett E. Chase.
1878	J. B. Felker.	Everett E. Chase.
1879	J. B. Felker.	Everett E. Chase.
1880	J. B. Felker.	Everett E. Chase.
1881	J. B. Felker.	Everett E. Chase.

In the winter of 1854-5 the post-offices were discontinued at Shelburn and Binghamton, and one was established at Amboy, with Orange D. Reed as postmaster. He held the office until the spring of 1861, when R. H. Mellen was appointed under the administration of President Lincoln, and has been in possession since.

Medora Bell, daughter of Charles Bell, was born August 27, 1854; this birth was the first in the village of Amboy. The first birth in the township was that of Simon, son of John Dexter, in 1836, and the second was that of Wm. C. Doan, son of James Doan, October 16, 1837. The first marriage in the village of Amboy was that of Wm. C. Bartlett and the widow of Danford Bartlett, formerly Caroline Vinton, October 18, 1854. Almira Melissa, infant daughter of Wm. B. Stuart, died January 5, 1855; this was the first death in the village.

In 1874 east and west Main street was partly ballasted, and the macadamizing has since been extended through the city. Before this was done this thoroughfare at some seasons was next to impassable.

Not only has the grade of this street been raised, but in the business quarter the surface, by filling in, has been made some four feet higher than it was when the town was laid out. In the early settlement of the country this was almost a quagmire, which was described as "Farwell's slough farm."

The two principal tragedies have been the murder of Dennis Allen, saloon keeper, by Owen O'Connor, October 11, 1872; and Edward Egan, by John McGrath, April 18, 1873. The first was shot, and died within an hour; the last was stabbed in the bowels, and survived until the fourth day. No serious cause of trouble existed in either case, and both acts were incited by strong drink. Both murderers escaped adequate punishment. Two negroes had an altercation in the passenger house, and one dealt the other a blow which ended his life in a few days. The number of drunken men who have been crushed and mangled to death on the railroad track in the city forms a list sickening to any brain not made impassive by alcohol.

The removal of the county seat to Amboy at one time formed an engrossing theme of controversy. It passed from the domain of words to that of acts in 1866, when the nomination by the republican union convention for representative fell upon Col. George Ryon, of Paw Paw, who represented the claims of Amboy. The people of this city at once held a meeting and selected W. E. Ives, B. H. Trusdell and N. H. Ryan to attend to the advertising required by the law relating to removals. The effort did not succeed.

In June, 1880, the city purchased from the Leake estate a tract of ground comprising nearly twenty-five acres, situated east of and adjoining the corporate limits, on the south side of Main street, and inclosed in the angle of Inlet creek, for \$2,250. This was formerly the property of A. B. Searles. It is covered with a thrifty growth of young timber, and is to be fitted up for a park. In 1878 a soldiers' reunion, the first in this part of the state, noted for the large attendance and its complete success, at which Gen. Logan and prominent men besides were present, was held in this grove.

#### ILLINOIS CENTRAL RAILROAD BUILDINGS.

As recorded on a former page, in the summer of 1853 ground was first broken for the erection of the passenger and freight houses, and they were completed and put to use the next year. Both were constructed of brick, and the first was 40×100 feet on the plan, two and one-half stories high, and built in a very substantial manner. It was a railroad hotel, went by the name of "Passenger House," and was kept by the following proprietors: James Aiken, John B. Wyman, Cushing and Hubbard, Cushing, J. Swift, Thomas Burns, A. H. Var-



ney, N. P. Almy, J. A. Ramsdell, Davison, C. C. Fulton, Gaylord, Dr. A. P. Chase, Oscar Hughes, and Frederick Hepburn. At three o'clock Monday morning, November 15, 1875, this house was discovered to be on fire, and in two hours it was totally consumed. This was the last regular hotel in the city. Next year a new building of brick, with light-colored stone trimmings, was erected on the site of the old, but its character was wholly changed. The first floor is divided into a ticket office and waiting and baggage rooms, while in the upper story are situated the various offices for operating the line.



ILLINOIS CENTRAL RAILROAD BRIDGE AT DIXON, ILL.

The original freight house,  $40 \times 80$  feet, remains well preserved, and is good for a hundred years' entire use. The first freight and station agent was C. R. Fields, who held the position three months and was succeeded by Lemuel Bourne, who retained it eight years.

Work was commenced on the shops in 1854, and they were finished the next year. The company's temporary shops were located between the Dutcher building and the track, and were torn down when the permanent buildings were occupied in the spring of 1856. The mechanical department comprises eight divisions, which are distributed among the several shops; these divisions are machine, car repair, blacksmith, paint, boiler, locomotive, wood repair, tin, and storehouse. The machine shop is two stories high,  $85 \times 130$  feet on the ground, built of brick and covered with slate roof. A stationary engine of eighty horse power, almost as noiseless as a clock, drives all the



machinery in this and the blacksmith shop by means of shafting through both buildings. Steam is supplied from two large tubular boilers. In the first shop the machinery is all on the ground floor, while in the second story are the locomotive, wood repair and the tin shops. Tracks extend into this building and connect with a turntable for convenience in the repair of locomotives. The blacksmith shop adjoining on the northwest corner is one story, with walls about twenty feet high and slated roof. Its dimensions are  $70 \times 125$  feet on the plan. A dozen or more forges are ranged round, with a large one in the center supplied with all necessary apparatus, including a trip hammer, for handling and doing heavy work. A powerful blower supplies the blast; and above the forges extends a large pipe from which smaller ones lead down with valves to regulate its use. The car repair shop is a frame building  $50 \times 150$  feet and one story in height. Two tracks extend nearly the full length, and on either side is a continuous row of work-benches. Repairing only is done in these shops, though the time was when some new work was sent out, and one or two locomotives, we believe, have been constructed here. The engine house is a circular brick building 216 feet in diameter, inclosing an open, spacious court in which there is a turntable with tracks radiating therefrom into twenty-seven engine compartments. These may be tightly closed at pleasure by the large doors hung at the entrances in the inner wall. "Here can always be seen a noble stud of iron horses with their grooms fitting them up for the course." The oil room and sand house is  $30 \times 50$  feet, and the stationary room 40 feet square. The storehouse, erected during the war, is a one-story building 30 feet wide and 120 feet long. The tank house is  $25 \times 65$ , and situated southeast of the engine house. The lower story is used for storage, and the upper is occupied by two huge tanks which are kept filled with water from Inlet creek, a quarter of a mile distant. A stationary engine at the latter point forces the water through a pipe into the tanks, and from these, engines and hydrants in the shops are supplied. The coal shed, a rough structure  $17 \times 320$  feet, stands in this vicinity. The mason work of these buildings was superintended by Michael Egan, one of the most thorough mechanics, who is still in the employ of the company; and the carpenter work was in charge of Daniel S. Clark. John C. Jacobs is the superintendent of the north division of the road, and has filled the office with unquestionable faithfulness since about 1858. We should have given a list of them "that exercise authority," and some description of the positions they occupy, but the information has not come to hand, and we can only ask to be pardoned, as we forgive him who has "held the word of promise to the ear and broken it to the hope." Subjoined are the names of many of



*Wm. Hale*

(DECEASED)



the best known who have been in the employ of the company about twenty to twenty-five years: Lucius Clark, G. H. McFatrieh, A. E. Slanter, Jared Slanter, John Gunning, A. J. Poland, Joseph Drummond, Robert Richards, B. B. Howard, Dennis Maloy, A. W. Spafard, J. B. Edams, L. G. Rice, G. W. Freeman, John Keho, Thomas Branagan, Levi Ives, Timothy Crowley, Joseph Tait, Charles Tait, William Tait, C. M. Thayer, Henry McGraw, William Trude, Charles Wescott, Homer Graves, Snow, Battles and Stay.

#### FIRES.

It would be hard to find a place which has passed through greater trials by fire than the city of Amboy; and with perhaps a single exception the larger ones are regarded as incendiary. The first on the site was before the town was surveyed, and was the boarding-house kept for the railroad company by Charles W. Bell, already noted elsewhere. The second was the dwelling-house of D. A. Thomas, destroyed Saturday, August 22, 1857. We shall omit the few barns and private houses burned subsequent to this date, and record only those conflagrations in which public or business property has suffered. The first Catholic church, so nearly completed that the plastering had been done, was accidentally burned December 2, 1857.

The historic Baker House was erected most probably in 1855, by Alonzo Kinyon, and stood on Jones street, where Carroll's tailor shop and the meat market just north of it are now situated. It was built of wood in the cheapest possible style, covered with tarred cloth, and the rooms divided with paper partitions; and by the public was dubbed "The Ark." Kinyon sold it to Baker, by whose name it has always been best known. It was afterward called the Burnett House, from a later owner, and was consumed November 13, 1859. It was occupied by two families at the time, one of which escaped with difficulty and injury, the mother falling down stairs, and the father leaping from the second story with a child in his arms. Dr. Bainter's office, adjoining on the north, was destroyed by the same fire.

The Orient House, kept at that date by John L. Skinner, was burned Friday evening, September 28, 1860.

The city hall was the first brick structure, except the railroad buildings, erected in Amboy, and was situated on East avenue. It was a fine edifice, with brick and iron front, three stories and a basement; built by Wm. B. Stuart and Paul Cullen in 1858. The first general conflagration originated in the basement of this building, occupied as a saloon by Peter Birkenbeuel, on the morning of December 10, 1863. The fire spread in both directions, and in its progress north was arrested by tearing down a building adjoining a vacant lot; on the south



it was stayed by Carson & Pirie's brick store, which was kept drenched with water. The aggregate loss was \$35,000, of which \$14,000 was covered by insurance. Among the losers were Carson & Pirie, who were fully protected by insurance; O. F. Warriner, Henry Brady, Wm. Murtha, M. Carroll, J. L. Skinner, Adam Shugart, Francis Cullen, Peter Birkenbeuel, A.F. and A.M., J. Kline, Owen O'Connor, John Morris, Philip Flach, Louis Brendell, James McCue, Abram Jackson, Theodore Goldman, Samuel Goldman, Andrew Walters and John Burns, besides several smaller losers.

A second fire devastated this locality again in 1864. On the morning of November 10 it broke out in the building occupied by Abram Jackson as a dry-goods and grocery store. Five business houses were consumed, and the new brick building just erected by the Badgers on the site of the Orient House was considerably damaged. The total loss of \$45,000 was reduced by \$38,000 of insurance. The sufferers were Carson & Pirie, E. Arnold, A. Jackson, Philip Goldman, Samuel Goldman, Perley & Blackstone, H. Keeling and Badger Brothers.

The third great fire visited the south side of Main street about one o'clock Friday morning, March 10, 1865, and swept away all of the business block west from the city building to the alley, including seven houses. The loss fell on W. E. Ives, McLean, George Keifer, Leake & Co., John Morris, Mingle Brothers, Benjamin Cope, Weddell estate, Wm. Keeling, A. E. Wilcox, R. S. Burlington, J. P. Newell, V. Weintz, Hunt, Howe and others.

Immediately following this the council passed an ordinance forbidding the construction of wooden buildings, except temporarily for a year, on Main street between Mason and the Central railroad, and on East avenue between Main and Division streets, and designated these limits as Fire District No. 1.

The fourth and most disastrous general fire up to this time occurred on the north side of Main street on August 24, 1867, and was discovered in the upper story of Josiah Little's drug store at half-past one in the morning. The row, in the middle of which the fire broke out, was composed of sixteen wooden buildings, which in two hours' time were completely lapped up by the flames. The dealers and others affected by this disaster were Hawkes & Bourne, Thomas Costain, Deming & Wilcox, W. Fasoldt, L. Barlow, J. Little, Lynn & Walker, Goldstone & Jackson, C. D. Vaughn, C. Allen, A. H. Merrifield & Co., A.F. & A.M., Mrs. Hudder, Fillis & Carroll, C. P. Miller, O. M. Miner, N. Woolsey, Dr. J. P. Foltz, dentist, Dr. J. R. Corbus, Dr. E. R. Travers, and L. Asire. The estimated loss was \$75,000; the insurance amounted to half that sum.

The next noted landmark of early Amboy to yield to the greedy

element was the old Exchange block on the west side of the railroad. It was burned down before daybreak on September 21, 1867.

Between two and three o'clock on the morning of April 2, 1868, a fire made its appearance in a building on East avenue occupied by William Murtha as a grocery and liquor store below and a saloon and billiard hall above kept by George Raymond. Four buildings, flanked on the south by Hawks & Bourne's store and on the north by Kline's bakery, were burned down. These were a barber shop, saloons and billiard rooms, kept by C. Praesent, Henry Brady, William Murtha, P. Fogarty, and John Dutcher.

On the night of April, 25, 1871, the Amboy House, kept by Hugh McGee, was totally destroyed. Estimated loss \$5,000; insurance \$3,500.

The sixth and last general fire, from which the city recovered with admirable grace and dignity after many woes, was more destructive than all the previous ones together. The aggregate loss reached \$175,000, and a tabulated statement of risks held by insurance companies shows their losses to have been \$103,000. The fire originated in the bakery of D. S. Corbin, underneath Vaughan's furniture store, and was discovered about four o'clock in the morning of August 25, 1871. It destroyed the buildings owned by C. D. Vaughan, William Murtha, C. F. Lynn, and Wilcox & Brigham, on the north side of Main street, and those on the south side owned by W. B. Andrus, Martin Maus, V. Weintz, C. Badger, John Kline, P. McMahan, Thomas Cunningham, and the city building. Those who lost in personal property were Gale & Gardner, Masonic Lodge, C. D. Vaughan, Misses Mickler & Vaughan, Arnold & Sindlinger, Josiah Little, B. H. Trusdell, C. F. Lynn, Mrs. Pierson, office of J. H. Preston, county superintendent, I. Zwisler, Wheat & Gridley Brothers, French, G. A. Deming, Mrs. McGraw & Wilcox, Miss Murphy, Mrs. Hudder, M. Maus, Graves & Hines, City Hall store. Weintz & Barth, Judge Kinyon, Sanger & Badger, Chase & Gale, engineers and firemen, John Kline, Terry Lynch, W. B. Stuart, and Merrifield & Co.

The most deplorable feature of this calamity was the burning to death of John Shannon, who had been arrested the night before on the charge of selling mortgaged property, and was confined in the calaboose. Sheff Dyer was the officer in charge of the lock-up; he put the man in his cell and the key in his pocket; he was early at the fire, and engaged himself in the exciting work of saving property, where so little indeed was saved; he saw the raging flames gradually approach and finally envelop the city building in which the helpless, unfortunate man was locked up, and still he never once thought of his prisoner. In its account of the affair, the "Journal" remarked, with a

mildness that would be exasperating were it not Christian, that "it was a clear case of forgetfulness."

On January 3, 1872, the jewelry store of J. A. Lagererantz in Fasoldt's building caught fire, but the prompt action of the fire department in the use of the new steamer averted another disastrous conflagration. The loss was not extensive.

Farwell Hall, which had outlived its usefulness as a public building, and having been remodeled was used as a dwelling, took fire on August 2, 1872, and was partially consumed, its total destruction being prevented by the promptness of the Vigilant fire company. It was repaired and is now residence property. The old Potter House was destroyed in the same manner June 17, 1873.

Another fire on East avenue occurred Sunday morning, October 11, 1874, making its appearance in Keeling's block. It was extinguished by the fire department. The loss was borne by C. G. Brauning, August Barth, Arnold & Son, and the Masonic and Odd-Fellows lodges.

Between two and three o'clock on the morning of April 12, 1875, Masonic hall was set on fire, which was put out and the building saved. Daylight revealed the diabolical work of the incendiary in the use of inflammable materials which had been applied to several buildings. Hardly had the people reached their homes before flames burst out of Patterson's hay-press, which was soon in ashes.

The Passenger House, as previously noticed, was burned November 15, 1875.

The Farmer's mills which had been removed in 1873 and re-erected in Amboy by Judge Kinyon near the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy depot, and in 1875 sold to W. H. Lunt, of Evanston Female College, were consumed early on the morning of February 9, 1876. The property was insured for \$8,000.

#### EDUCATION.

The first school in the village of Amboy was a select one for young scholars, taught by Miss Celia Winters, in the old Baptist church west of the railroad. Miss Vaughan was another who taught in the same place. The vestry of the present Baptist church was afterward occupied, and Miss Vaughan and Miss Merilla Warriner were the teachers. School was kept in Farwell Hall until need of that was superseded by the erection of the first school-house. In the summer of 1856 efforts were begun looking toward the construction of a school building in Amboy, and \$2,600 were raised by taxation the following winter. The district had, besides, a fund of \$800, derived from the sale of the swamp lands. On March 12, 1857, a public meeting of the voters of district

No. 4 was held at Farwell Hall to authorize an appropriation to build. A committee to select grounds was appointed, and the 21st was named for an adjourned meeting to hear their report. The location adopted was between Jones and Mason streets, fronting Hawley. This seems to have been unsatisfactory, for on the 20th of April the district had a meeting to reconsider the vote fixing the site, and the one on Provost street, where the house was built, became the choice. Ground was broken for the foundation on the 6th of July. The house is a plain brick, two stories,  $36 \times 60$ , and stands in the center of a spacious playground on the corner of Provost street and Commercial avenue. In the fall of 1864 a one-story wooden school-building was constructed in Gilson's addition, block 9, facing Davis avenue, and the next year the old frame Methodist meeting-house on the east side was purchased by the district for a school-house in season for the fall term. The price paid was \$1,000, one half payable in two years and the remainder in three. In 1868 a two-story brick,  $30 \times 54$ , was erected on the west side, in the southeast corner of the old fair ground, and the campus contains about one-fourth of the original area. These four, none of them imposing in appearance, but all supplying fair accommodations, if we except overcrowding, constitute the public school buildings in present use.

We are able to give a partial list of the superintendents, and begin with J. K. B. Clayton, whose name once crops out above the débris of time in the autumn of 1859. He is followed the next year by J. H. Blodgett. Links are missing from this time until the school year 1865-6, when we gather up the chain in the person of John Russ, assisted by his wife. About this period the languishing state of the schools excited no little public comment. C. W. Moore succeeded in 1866, and was in charge three years. We have discovered no incumbent for 1869, but Mr. Moore filled the position in 1870, giving place in the fall of that year to R. A. Childs. The latter was retained three years, and followed by H. A. Smith two years. Mr. Reagan, now in 1875, took the principalship, and discharged its duties until 1878, and since that time P. M. James has occupied the position. We believe a man by the name of Cook should have a place somewhere in the category.

The schools are divided into four departments, and regularly graded. In each of the frame buildings is a primary and an intermediate; on the west side Miss Lizzie Burke has taught a number of years in the former, and on the east side Miss L. Nowlin, who has been steadily employed about a dozen years and in different positions, is teaching at present in the same department. In the intermediate on the west side is James E. Shea, and on the east side Miss Lizzie Morris. The new or west-side brick has a primary and a grammar department, with Miss Lizzie Sears to preside over the former and Daniel Griffin over the lat-



ter. All the departments are represented in the old school-building. Miss Lizzie Richards teaches in the primary, Miss Jennie Reed in the intermediate, Miss Lizzie Gardner, and Miss Eva Shurtleff assistant, in the grammar, and Prof. James, and Mr. Kehoe assistant, in the high school. The latter was graduated here in the class of 1878. During the past year L. B. Searles has taught penmanship in the several departments. The studies in the high school embrace higher English, higher mathematics, and the sciences. Eleven years are required to complete the full course, distributed as follows: primary three, intermediate three, grammar two, and high school three. Fifty-eight students have been graduated since 1876, the first year in which diplomas were granted. In that year there were two graduates, in 1877 eight, in 1878 eleven, in 1879 fifteen, in 1880 twelve, and in 1881 ten.

For the year ended June 10, 1881, the whole number of pupils enrolled was 673, and the average daily attendance 476. Children under twenty-one 1,199, and between six and twenty-one 889. The board of education is composed of Dr. George Ryon, president; J. B. Graves, clerk; Patrick Corcoran, J. G. Stafford, Rev. J. H. Hazen and Joseph Pennenbacker. C. D. Vaughan is the township treasurer.

#### CHURCHES.

The Baptist society was constituted May 1855, and the same year built a small temporary church on West Main street, on lot 1, block 14, Gilson's addition. The leading constituent members were Deacons Cyrus Bryant, Warren Hill and Allen E. Wilcox and their wives, Almon Ives and wife, Samuel Bixby and wife, and William E. Ives and wife. Deacons Jacob Luce and Harvey Barrell and their wives joined soon after. The Rev. Whittaker was the first pastor who ministered to the congregation in this house. Preparations were early begun to erect an enduring edifice, and in 1856 it was commenced, and before the close of the year finished outside. Deacons Hill, Wilcox and Luce and William E. Ives were the building committee, and E. S. Reynolds the contractor and builder. Its situation is on Mason street, lot 9, block 24, Wyman's addition, and the dimensions are 36 × 60 feet on the plan. The interior arrangement is an elevated audience room over a stone basement, and the cost was \$4,500. The building was inclosed during the memorable presidential canvass of 1856, and in season to be occupied for a political meeting, which was addressed by the famous and fiery orator Owen Lovejoy. On March 2 of the next year, when the citizens were voting on the adoption of the city charter, the bell, which had just been lifted to its place, pealed out its first grateful sounds on the prairie air,—never before stirred in this vicinity by such a herald of “peace on earth, good will to men”—

which vibrated and throbbed to the delight of the people with the music of its rich, glad tones. The house was formally dedicated on September 13, by Rev. Silas Tucker, of Galesburg, who preached the sermon for the occasion. The Rev. T. H. Ball was the pastor at this time, and his predecessor was the Rev. P. Taylor, the earliest to preach in this new church. The first funeral service was that of Mrs. Jacob Luce in February, before it was completed, and was held in the vestry. The second was that of Mrs. Mary Beresford, who died just a month after the dedication. The Rev. Ball's ministry was succeeded in 1858 by the Rev. J. C. Miller, a noted laborer here in his denomination. In eight months of 1858-9 he added over 130 members by baptism. This was a period of very successful revival work by all of the churches, and will be remembered as that of the great awakening of religious fervor throughout America and Europe. Among those who took an active part in the affairs of the church just prior to this interesting improvement in its condition we would name R. M. Brigham, E. Arnold, C. A. Wall, M. L. Arnold, S. Carson, O. Arnold, W. S. Cottrell, E. S. Hill, J. M. Davis and their wives. The fourth pastor, counting from the Rev. Taylor, was the Rev. William R. Webb, D.D., one of the ablest the church ever had, whose pastorate began in the autumn of 1861. He was succeeded in his labors by the Rev. J. H. Hazen, who came in June 1865, fresh from an exhausting three years' service in the army, which induced paralysis and drove him from the pulpit which he had so much adorned throughout his useful life. His connection as pastor ceased in the fall of 1869, and his place was taken by James Buchanan, who was followed in the summer of 1870 by M. T. Lamb. The Revs. George Wesselius, W. D. Clarke and Dr. N. A. Reed complete the list. Mr. Reed's pastorate terminated the present year. In 1865 the society bought a parsonage, and the next year repaired their house of worship at an expense of about \$400. They have been out of debt since the spring of 1876. The membership is about 150, and the Sabbath school, under the superintendence of Prof. P. M. James, has 145 enrolled and an average attendance of 85.

The people of Amboy first worshiped for a short time in the dining-hall of the Passenger House. The Baptists built a small meeting-house and withdrew from the mixed congregations. Farwell Hall was soon erected, and to this all others then had resort. The second church in the town was built by the Methodists in 1857, and dedicated Sunday, June 21; Prof. Munsell, of Mount Morris, conducted the dedicatorial service, and the Rev. O. B. Thayer was assigned to this charge in August by the conference. This house is a low-post frame, stands on the northeast corner of block 15—at the intersection of Main and Center streets—and is now one of the four public school buildings

of the city. Its erection was chiefly due to the zealous exertions of George H. Pierson, who took the lead in the matter, procured the lumber on his own account, invested labor of his own hands, and accepted payments from the society. On May 16, 1865, the corner-stone of the present massive church was laid with suitable ceremonies, and addresses were delivered by the Rev. Jewett, the Rev. W. T. Harlow, presiding elder, and the Rev. Dr. Robt. Hatfield, of New York. On behalf of the society and the undertaking Dr. Hatfield lectured in the evening in the Baptist church on "The Sacrifices and Compensations of the War." The dedication took place April 1, 1866. The Rev. Dr. Eddy, of Chicago, was present, and preached an able discourse from Matthew xxviii, 8, 9. The cost of the church was nearly \$14,000, but a debt of \$6,000 remained, which was promptly canceled by liberal donations in cash and pledges. In forwarding this useful object H. E. Badger bore a leading part, and was one of the heaviest contributors. This is a substantial stone edifice, plain, without beauty, yet having an air of Gothic style. Its size on the ground is 40×60 feet. A lecture-room and two class rooms occupy the basement, and above is a spacious and attractive audience-hall. The front corners are surmounted by towers, the taller of which, containing the belfry, has replaced the spire which rose to the height of 127 feet, but which was blown down in a gale Sunday evening, July 17, 1870, depositing the bell uninjured in the street; the damage was \$500. The location is on Mason street just above Main. Joseph Lewis, Henry E. Badger, Ephraim Wheaton, I. N. Bear, George Mingle and Edward Miller were organizers of this church, and are still here, though the latter has transferred his membership to the Congregational church. They have been foremost members, and their long and faithful communion and usefulness reflect on them a halo of patriarchal dignity and venerableness. Mr. Badger has always served the church either as trustee, steward, or Sabbath-school superintendent, and has sometimes filled concurrently all these positions. H. F. Walker, an early business man here, now in Chicago, was very efficient on the building committee, and also as trustee and superintendent. Joseph Lewis has always been a reliable assistant as trustee, steward and leader. The offices of secretary and treasurer of both the society and the Sunday-school have been carefully filled most of the time by C. P. Miller. Since the new church was occupied the superintendents have been H. F. Walker, H. E. Badger, C. W. Deming, W. H. Badger, G. W. Mingle and A. Burnham. H. E. Badger and C. W. Deming have been most of the time district stewards and delegates to the laymen's conference. The present membership, probably, will not fall below 120. Turning now for information to the records of the church, we find that the first quarterly

conference for Amboy Station was held December 19, 1857. Luke Hitchcock was presiding elder, O. B. Thayer preacher in charge, I. K. Eberly local preacher, J. P. Hawks exhorter, N. Cleaveland local elder and H. F. Walker, H. E. Badger, G. W. Mingle and A. Bainter official members. The presiding elders and preachers in charge since that time have been as follows: 1858-9, S. P. Keyes, P.E., O. B. Thayer, P.C.; 1859-60, S. A. W. Jewett, P.E., H. L. Martin, P.C.; 1860-1, Josiah Gibson, P.E., H. L. Martin, P.C.; 1861-2, Josiah Gibson, P.E., J. W. Davidson, P.C.; 1862-3, Josiah Gibson, P.E., W. Cone, P.C.; 1863-4-5, W. T. Harlow, P.E., W. Cone, P.C.; 1865-6, W. T. Harlow, P.E., D. J. Holmes, P.C.; 1866-7, E. Q. Fuller, P.E., J. G. Bliss, P.C.; 1867-8, J. H. Moore, P.E., J. Fassett, P.C.; 1868-9-70, J. H. Moore, P.E., J. T. Hanna, P.C.; 1870-1, J. H. Moore, P.E., J. T. Hanna, P.C., till April 1, remainder of conference year supplied by A. P. Hatch; 1871-2, W. S. Harrington, P.E., J. Wardel, P.C.; 1872-3-4-5, W. S. Harrington, P.E., C. R. Ford, P.C.; 1875-6, W. S. Harrington, P.E., E. M. Battis, P.C.; 1876-7-8, J. Linebarger, P.E., E. M. Battis, P.C.; 1878-9-80, J. Linebarger, P.E., A. Campbell; 1880-1, Luke Hitchcock, P.E., Isaac A. Springer.

The floating debt of the church, which had accumulated to \$2,500, was entirely liquidated during the pastoral charge of the Rev. Ford.

"The Congregational church of Palestine Grove" was organized at the residence of Moses Crombie, July 5, 1843, and worshipped for several years at the Wasson school-house, near Binghamton. The society was ministered to at this place by the Revs. John Morrell, Ingersoll, Joseph Gardner, and Pierson. About 1849 the place of worship was removed to Lee Center, and the name of this locality was substituted for Palestine Grove in the name of the church. Out of this sprang the subject of this paragraph—the Congregational church of Amboy. On June 27, 1854, Joseph Farwell and his wife Cyrene, John C. Church and his wife Cyrene, Michael Blocher of Lee Center church, and Constant Abbott, Ruby his wife, and Caroline their daughter, of the First Presbyterian church of Galesburg, assembled at the house of Joseph Farwell and organized themselves into a "Church of Jesus Christ," which was recognized on the following day as the First Church of Amboy by an ecclesiastical council at Lee Center, convened under a call to ordain and install the Rev. S. W. Phelps. This was the earliest religious society formed in Amboy, and its organization antedates the first conveyance of town lots. Another body declaring its belief that "the cause of religion would be promoted by the forming of a society to unite with and sustain the action of the Congregational church," was organized upon this basis by some of the citizens June 17, 1856. Until Farwell Hall was built they held services



in the Passenger House, and these were first conducted by the Rev. S. W. Phelps, who ministered to them occasionally; but on February 14, 1855, the Rev. David Wert was invited to become their pastor at \$500 yearly salary and no expense for rent. The call was accepted and he officiated for them until April 1856. In December the Rev. C. P. Felch engaged to supply the pulpit, and April 30 following he was ordained and installed pastor. During his ministerial charge the first house of worship was erected on Jones street, near Provost, at a cost of about \$1,500, and dedicated April 1, 1858, by the Rev. F. Bascom, of Galesburg, who preached the dedicatory sermon. The Rev. Felch was retained on a salary of \$800 a year until October 12, 1859, after which time the Rev. S. W. Phelps preached once every Sabbath for about one year. The Rev. Samuel Day was next secured at \$600 per year and a donation, and served the church from the autumn of 1860 till January 1862. The Rev. J. L. White took the vacant place shortly after, and in July accepted the formal call of the church at an annual salary of \$600, which was increased in 1864 to \$900. In July, 1866, he retired and was succeeded by the Rev. G. H. Wells, who declined the call of the church made in January 1867, but accepted it when renewed in March, though his ministry did not begin until September. He received \$1,200 a year for his services, which ended December 25, 1870. His successor, the Rev. C. Caverno, employed at a salary of \$1,500 per year, began his pastoral labors September 3, 1871, and terminated them March 1, 1874. The congregation had no stated supply after this date until November, when the Rev. J. M. Lau Bach accepted a call to this charge and labored herein till April 1878. He was speedily followed the next month by the Rev. M. S. Crosswell, who was soon thereafter unanimously called to the pastorate, which he accepted, and from which he withdrew October 1, 1880. The church has had no pastor since. Their present house of worship, standing on the corner of Main and Plant streets, is a slightly frame edifice surmounting a stone basement, and is 40×72 feet in dimensions. The basement contains a lecture-room and parlors. This house was begun in the autumn of 1865, completed the next spring, and dedicated June 10, by the Rev. G. F. Magoon, of Iowa College. The cost was \$14,000. During the present summer it has been repaired, repainted, and the interior frescoed, and supplied with a pipe organ, at an expense of \$2,000. This church united with the Rock River association in October 1854, at its meeting at Grand de Tour; and in 1857, when the Bureau association was formed, it joined that body. Since its organization with eight members in 1854 about 400 have been added, and the present membership, including many non-residents, is 164.

The Sabbath-school, which was organized in Farwell Hall in April

1855, with R. H. Mellen as superintendent, is maintained the year round, and the average attendance, which was then about fifty, has increased to nearly three times that number. The first church was sold to the Free Methodists in the spring of 1866 for \$1,200. Of the original members three are still living and in communion,—Michael Blocher and John C. Church and his wife. The venerable Father Farwell, so often mentioned in these pages, whose name stood first on the list, was a native of Fitchburg, Massachusetts, having been born of Puritan stock, May 14, 1790. In 1815 he became a communicant in the Congregational church; in 1819 he married; in 1826 he settled in Lowell, and there assisted in forming the first Congregational church in that place, as he afterward also assisted in establishing the second and the third; in 1836 he emigrated with his family to Amboy, Michigan, in which place he likewise aided in founding the first church of the same denomination; and in 1841 he removed to this place, at that time called Palestine Grove. His death, which occurred March 5, 1875, found him ripe in years and good works. Mrs. Farwell survived him but is not now living.

The Hon. B. H. Trusdell furnishes the following in regard to the Episcopal church:

The Episcopal church was established in Amboy in the spring of 1859 by the organization of St. Thomas' parish. The proceedings took place in Mechanics' Hall, and the rector, Rev. W. M. A. Brodnax, Mrs. Brodnax, Mr. and Mrs. N. S. Chase, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Merigold, Mr. and Mrs. Lemuel Bourne, Mr. and Mrs. D. P. Stone, J. F. Somes, F. I. Foot, Mr. King, and Mr. and Mrs. B. H. Trusdell, were among the number who participated. The records of the parish have been burned, and the names of the original wardens and vestrymen cannot be given. Mr. Brodnax continued rector of the parish about three years. He was a talented, courteous, agreeable, christian gentleman. The society worshiped in the hall where the parish was organized, and for a time prospered. In 1862 Mr. Brodnax resigned, and for several years there were occasional ministrations by clergymen sent here by the bishop; but finally all hope of firmly establishing the church was abandoned. N. S. Chase, a gentleman of rare intelligence and pleasing manners, a thorough churchman, and a born leader, had died. He had done more for the parish than any other man, and there was no one to take his place. At a later date the parish sustained a serious loss in the death of Mrs. Robert Merigold. She was born in the church; and although an invalid for many years, her sincere piety and active zeal brought her great respect and influence. When thoroughly disorganized and without hope, in the autumn of 1877, Rev. N. W. Heermans, then in deacon's orders, came to this his

first parish and entered upon the work of resuscitating it. The results are marvelous. On the lots donated to the parish at its organization by John B. Calhoun, Esq., and located on the northwest corner of Mason and Provost streets, has been erected a beautiful church edifice, which is completely and neatly furnished. The lots have been graded, grassed and fenced, and shade-trees planted, and all is fully paid for. During this period Mr. Heermans held occasional services at Tonica, Illinois, and there made the acquaintance of Mr. and Mrs. William Watron. Mr. Watron died very suddenly, and Mrs. Watron, knowing her husband's attachment to Mr. Heermans, and his desire to promote the welfare of the church, gave to Mr. Heermans \$1,000 for the acquisition of a rectory for St. Thomas' parish. At one Sunday morning service, to the great surprise of his congregation, he placed a check for that sum among the offerings. March 30, 1881, he purchased from Mr. James B. Arnold, for \$1,500, his residence adjoining the church lots, and moved into it in May. The society is now hopeful, and Mr. Heermans may well feel proud of and be thankful for the results of his coming to this parish.

The German Evangelical church in Amboy was formed by the Rev. Wm. Angelberger, of Franklin Grove, on the 30th of January 1870, with fifty-four members, among whom Jacob Ashenbrenner, Jacob Klein, Valentine Weintz, Fred Nickels and Charles Molloy were perhaps the most prominent. This organization took place in the basement of the Congregational church, where their first meetings were held, and was then styled the First Evangelical Lutheran church. On the 3d of July the old Congregational church was purchased from the Free Methodists for \$1,500. The members named above and three other persons contributed one half of the purchase-money. The Rev. Angelberger preached to this congregation till May 26, 1872, and was followed by the Rev. Anthes until September 5, 1875. Somewhat irregular services were now held by different ministers for a year. On the 20th of May, 1876, the church voted an application for union with the Evangelical Synod of North America, a different denomination, and being accepted the name was accordingly changed to German Evangelical. The Rev. Wm. Fromm, of New York, was sent by the synod, and on January 14, 1877, was installed pastor by the Rev. Biese-meier, of Forreston. He departed in the autumn of 1878, and from that time till July, 1879, several persons officiated. On July 27 the Rev. Hagemann was installed by the Rev. W. Stark, of Mendota. Owing to deaths and removals their membership has diminished to about twenty-five. In their Sabbath school of about fifty members the children are taught in German, so that they may read the scriptures and listen to preaching in the tongue of the father-

land. The first trustees were V. Weintz, Fred Nickels, and John Klein, and the first deacons were Jacob Ashenbrenner, Charles Molloy, and Charles Hegert.

In 1854 the Catholics, thirty or forty in number, began holding service at the residence of Michael Egan. Father Anthony was the first to celebrate mass, but Fathers O'Hara and Fitzgerald also came temporarily. In 1857, while Father Edwards was here, some lots were purchased in the north part of the town, and material to be used in the erection of a church was hauled to the ground. But this priest remained only a brief time, and being followed by Father Bray, the first who settled here, and who disapproved of the location, the lots were sold to Patrick Murphy, and others bought where the Catholic church now stands, on the corner of Adams and Center streets. The house was built in 1857, but when the plastering was being done it accidentally caught fire and burned down. This misfortune occurred on the 2d of December. Father Bray remained until the following spring, and then Father Vahey came to the place. In the autumn of this year, 1858, rebuilding was begun, and the church finished in the spring of 1859. Father Clark was the next priest, and was here as early as 1862; Father Murphy was his successor in 1868, and during his charge, probably in 1871, the church was enlarged by an addition to its length. In 1869 a house and three lots in Wyman's addition were bought for the priest's occupancy, and the sum of \$3,000 was paid for the property. The next and last change in priests was when Father Keenan came in 1873. The church is in a flourishing condition; it is out of debt, and its membership embraces over 230 heads of families. The building in which they worship is 32×94 feet; it begins to bear marks of age, and it is proposed to build another in the near future, and with this object in view a fund is being accumulated. It has reached \$2,000.

The Catholic cemetery is located between Amboy and Rocky Ford. The ground was obtained by two purchases, both of which were made when Father Clark was over the church. The first piece of two and three-fourths acres was bought from Isadore Zwisler for \$200, some time during the war. It was back from the road, and a few years after a tract of four acres in front was obtained from F. R. Dutcher for \$400. Michael Egan, Patrick Corcoran and Lawrence McGrath are the cemetery trustees. Before this burial lot was procured the Catholics gave their dead sepulture at Sandy Hill.

A Free Methodist Society was formed in Amboy about 1864 by the Rev. Mead. The first meetings were held in Fasoldt's Hall, and the original body did not consist of more than half-a-dozen members, but it eventually reached as high as forty or more. The first regular



preacher was the Rev. Miller, who was followed in 1865 by the Rev. Levi Kelly, and he in turn was succeeded by the Rev. Charles Harroun, sr. The Revs. Cain and Cooley preached subsequently, and the closing labors of the latter were coincident with the dissolution of the society. In 1866 the old Congregational church was bought, but four years after was sold to the German Lutherans. Dissensions having arisen among the Free Methodists in 1868, Stephen G. Virgil and H. S. Sweet joined the United Brethren church at La Moille, and then got Elder Dodson to come to Amboy and organize a society. This was done at Sweet's house, formerly the old Farwell Hall. The original members were Virgil, Sweet, P. A. Main, Rev. Miles Lewis, Rev. J. W. Lewis, Mrs. Sophia Lewis, and Ephraim Wheaton and his wife, John Sheffield and his wife, Mrs. S. G. Virgil, Alpheus Skinner and his wife, and Margaret Sheffield came into the society soon after. This church grew out of, and ultimately replaced, the Free Methodist. The Revs. John Dodson and J. W. Lewis were the first pastors, and in 1870 they gave place to the Rev. O. A. Phillips. During his charge the next year a meeting-house was built on the west side, on Division street, and dedicated December 31 by Bishop Edwards. The sum of \$1,728 was pledged, clearing the church from debt. This house is 34 x 50 feet, and cost \$4,500. Elders Snyder and Crowder came next in order as preachers after Phillips. The Lewises have been leading members, and Joseph Lewis was ordained in this church. The society is in a prosperous condition.

In 1859 the Adventists organized at Binghamton with thirteen members: D. S. Clark, S. E. Maybee, P. J. Main, Emerson Royce, Miss Maria Steadman and others, with Wm. McCulloch and wife, Lorenzo Whitney and wife, and Lysander Whitney from abroad, constituting the society. One says that Rev. Calkins was the first minister, another gives that distinction to S. E. Maybee. The earlier preachers were A. S. Calkins, P. B. Morgan, Moses Chandler and Maybee, and of the later ones D. S. Clark, Wm. McCulloch, Harry McCulloch, O. D. Gibson, C. C. Marston, Frank Burr, Eldridge Burrington and S. B. Maybee have been the most prominent. The latter officiates at the present time. They have never built a church, but have worshiped in town halls in Amboy. At one time they had the use of the German Lutheran house, but their membership having fallen off from about forty to fifteen, they now hold services at the residences of Wm. Main and Rufus Hulbert. This denomination has held three largely attended camp-meetings at Amboy. It is known by the name of Advent Christian church.

## ORGANIZATIONS.

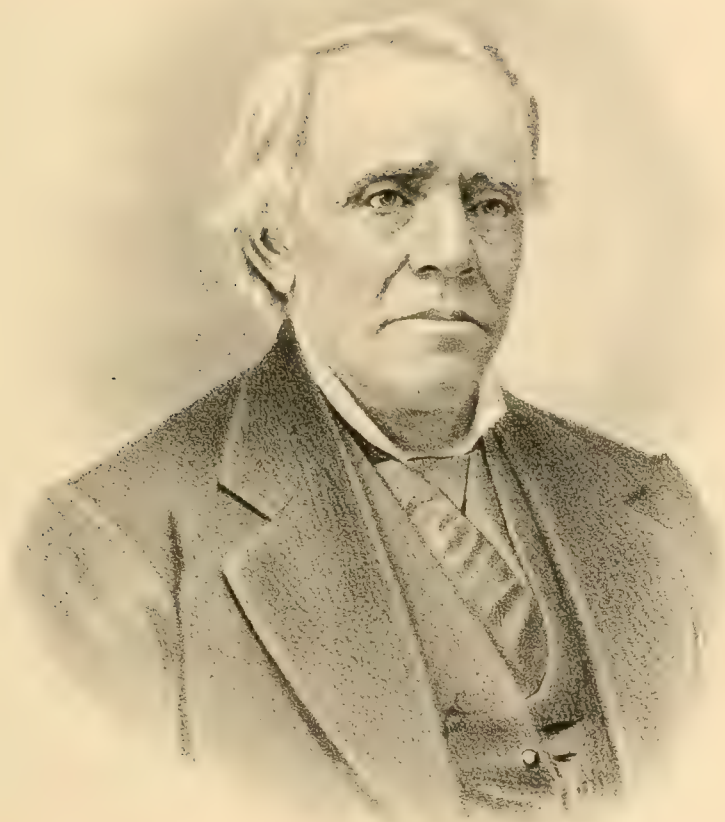
Illinois Central Lodge, No. 178, A.F. and A.M., was organized in July 1855, and worked under a dispensation until a charter was issued by the grand lodge, October 3 of the same year. The following were the charter members, and those designated the first officers: J. A. Jackson, W.M.; H. B. Judkins, S.W.; Warren Badger, J.W.; E. S. Reynolds, Treas.; Lemuel Bourne, Sec.; L. W. Borden, S.D.; P. G. Lyon, J.D.; John N. Brown, Tyler; David Bainter, John Stevens, Arthur Robbins and Henry Porter. This lodge has suffered from four fires; once or twice its property has been wholly destroyed, and in each of the other cases it received partial damage. For an account of these burnings the reader is referred to that subject on a previous page. Most, if not all, the masters have been Dr. J. A. Jackson, Dr. Harmon Wasson, E. P. Noyes, L. W. Borden, Francis Hudson, O. F. Warriner, A. H. Wooster, Robt. Richards, and Prof. P. M. James. Twenty-eight members have been removed by death. The lodge is in a flourishing condition, with a membership of about ninety. Present officers: P. M. James, W.M.; L. A. Hulbert, S.W.; V. B. Andrus, J.W.; W. B. Andrus, Treas.; C. P. Miller, Sec.; R. D. Badger, S.D.; P. E. Haines, J.D.; George Binns, T.; Charles Tait, S.S.; and I. S. Smith, J.S. Regular communications are on the first and third Mondays of each month, in Masonic, formerly called Keeling's Hall, on East avenue.

Amboy Lodge, No. 179, I.O.O.F., was originally instituted by Deputy Grand Master Eustice, under dispensation, July 2, 1855; and October 12 of the same year a charter was issued to William E. Ives, Charles B. Farwell, J. J. Conderman, Orange D. Reed, Harmon Wasson, James H. Preston, Simon Badger, Adam Roundenbush, Henry Roof, and Joel B. Strickland: signed by J. E. Starr, grand master, and S. A. Carman, grand secretary. At the first meeting the officers elected for the term ending with the year were H. Wasson, N.G.; O. D. Reed, V.G.; Alexander Martin, Sec.; and C. D. Vaughan, Treas. In addition to these J. J. Conderman, A. Roundenbush, C. B. Farwell, J. N. Davis, S. S. Reed, H. Roof and William E. Ives were present, and all except the latter received appointive offices. Applications for membership came from S. S. Reed, J. M. Davis, W. P. Roff, Tyler Hale, and Julius Hale, and these persons were elected. At the next meeting, on the 7th, A. Martin, H. Wasson, J. J. Conderman, W. E. Ives and J. H. Preston were elected trustees. The lodge flourished until the war, when nearly half the members went into the army, and of the remaining ones many were train men, who could not attend the meetings with any certainty or regularity, and from these causes, the attendance having become deplorably reduced, in Jan-

uary, 1864, the lodge suspended for a twelvemonth, and before the close of the year surrendered its charter and all its effects to the grand lodge. On August 23, 1873, the lodge was rechartered with the following members: Robert Richards, P.G.; C. D. Vaughan, P.G.; Henry Beals, Joseph Sackett, Jacob J. Conderman, J. H. Preston, P.G.; Robert Geddes, P.G.; James Rosebrugh, P.G.; Julius Hale, P.G.; Jacob Klein, Amiza Shoemaker, P.G.; Aaron Goldstone, P.G.; Peter Stein, Fritz Krehl, Benedict Fessler, Frank Weise, and Herman Zolf. An informal meeting was held on the 25th, and the result of the balloting for elective officers was as follows: Aaron Goldstone, N.G.; Robert Richards, V.G.; C. D. Vaughan, Sec., and James Rosebrugh, Treas. On September 11 the lodge was instituted and these officers installed. The present elective officers are Charles Weis, N.G.; Dr. E. R. Travers, V.G.; G. W. Deming, Rec. Sec.; Aaron Goldstone, Treas.; Jacob Ashenbrenner, Per. Sec. The lodge meets every Tuesday night in the spacious and beautiful hall over J. B. Graves' hardware store, where the walls are decorated with portraits of many of their members. During the past year \$85 have been paid in funeral benefits, and \$88 in sick benefits. The membership is about ninety.

Warren Encampment, No. 122, was instituted under dispensation at Franklin Grove, May 17, 1871, by James E. Ketchum, D.D.G.P. of Earl Encampment, with the aid of a number of assistants. For the term ending with the year the following were elected officers: D. H. Spickler, C.P.; H. A. Black, H.P.; S. W. Riegles, S.W.; John Blocher, J.W.; Josiah Graff, S.; Kincaid Runyon, Treas. At the first meeting nine received patriarchal and golden-rule degrees, and six of this number took the royal-purple degree. A charter was granted October 10, to D. H. Spickler, John Blocher, William H. Bassler, H. P. Black, S. W. Riegles, Kincaid Runyon, and Joseph Graff. The last meeting held by this encampment at Franklin Grove was on August 5, 1879. A proposition to move it to Amboy was adopted, which measure was immediately carried into effect, and on the 7th the first meeting was held in the new location. Grand Patriarch Crocker was in the chair, and the other officers were filled by patriarchs from Paw Paw. Petitions were received from Daniel Bull, C. E. Arnold, Charles Randall, G. A. Deming, W. Bronson, Fay Strickland, and L. Hegert, and these persons were elected and initiated. There is now a membership of twenty-three. The place of meeting is in Odd-Fellows' Hall, on the first and third Fridays of each month. Present officers: G. A. Deming, C.P.; W. J. Moseley, H.P.; A. Shoemaker, S.W.; J. H. Preston, J.W.; Fay Strickland, S.; and B. Fassler, T.

Palestine Lodge, No. 122, A.O.U.W., was organized July 24, 1878, with thirty-four charter members, among whom were P. M. James, J.



Faithfully yours  
James H. Preston.





E. Lewis, E. R. Travers, V. B. Andruss, C. E. Arnold, J. B. Graves, W. H. Badger, and A. E. Merwine. First officers: J. E. Lewis, P.M. W.; P. M. James, M.W.; L. A. Hulbert, F.; V. B. Andruss, O.; A. E. Merwine, R.; J. M. Arnold, R.; C. P. Miller, F.; P. E. Haines, G.; A. Barth, I.W.; W. C. Smith, O.W. The first trustees were C. E. Arnold, C. Hegert, and J. B. Graves. Present officers: C. E. Arnold, M.W.; J. E. Lewis, F.; A. E. Merwine, O.; A. Hulbert, R.; D. W. Slanter, R.; C. P. Miller, F.; H. Masterman, G.; Charles Tait, I.W.; Jerome Hussey, O.W. Since the organization one member has been lost by death. Meetings are held every Wednesday evening in Masonic Hall. Membership sixty-three, condition very prosperous. One of the first objects of this order is mutual insurance, but sick benefits and the social features are also of prime importance.

Friendship Council, No. 567, A.L. of H., was instituted May 6, 1881, by R. R. Harding, of Rockford, with fifty members. The first and present officers are Robert Richards, P.C.; L. A. Hulbert, C.; C. A. Church, V.C.; A. E. Slanter, O.; W. H. Dean, Sec.; C. P. Miller, C.; F. R. Doty, T.; Rev. N. W. Heermans, C.; W. P. Barnes, G.; G. Binns, W.; A. H. Virgil, S. Dr. C. A. Wilcox is medical examiner, and Dr. E. Manning, alternate. Meetings are held in Odd-Fellows' Hall on the second and fourth Fridays of each month. This is primarily a life-insurance organization, and the aggregate amount for which the charter members are insured is \$168,000. This order was instituted in Boston, Massachusetts, three years ago; its objects being social and fraternal union for the purpose of extending material aid to its members, to cultivate their minds, morals and tastes, and to establish a fund for beneficiary objects.

Lee County Post, No. 65, G.A.R., was organized September 8, 1879, by Gen. Chamberlain. First officers: Col. George Ryon, C.; C. K. Dixon, S.V.C.; Capt. Wm. Frost, J.V.C.; A. H. Merrifield, Q.M.; Dr. E. Manning, S.; J. H. Hazen, C.; J. H. Gray, O.D.; John S. Bitzer, O.G.; C. E. Arnold, Q.M.S.; C. Gordonier, S.M.; E. E. Chase, A. Present officers: C. H. Ingals, C.; G. E. Young, S.V.C.; R. Warriner, J.V.C.; C. K. Dixon, C.; E. Manning, S.; C. E. Arnold, Q.M.; J. Bitzer, O.D.; J. Carr, O.G.; L. A. Hulbert, A. Stated meetings are on the second and fourth Mondays of each month, in Masonic Hall. This post was organized with thirty-five ex-soldiers, and the present number is seventy-two. Interest in the meetings has greatly declined. The first post instituted in Amboy went down several years ago.

On the 14th February, 1879, an independent organization was formed in Amboy bearing the name of United States Pensioners' Aid Protective Association, composed of about ten veteran pensioners, with

the following officers: C. K. Northrup, C.; P. Dunsmore, V.C.; C. A. Getty, Sec.; H. S. Merrow, Treas.; J. H. Hazen, C.; E. Tourtlott, S. at A.; Joseph Carr, S. The objects of this association were expressed in its name; but after a short trial it was found that the pensioners were too few and the objects too limited to give it stability, and accordingly on the 17th of October a radical change was made in the organization, enlarging its scope and making its features more attractive and valuable. The names of the offices, but not the officers, were changed. Mr. Hazen and Mr. Getty, assisted somewhat by others, originated the secret work of the new order, which was called Our Country's Defenders, and also prepared the charter and the constitution. The headquarters were removed to Chicago in November 1880. The order has extended into Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, Wisconsin, Michigan, Indiana, Ohio, New York, and New Hampshire; and in some of these states there are state encampments. Generals Grant, Logan, Governor Beveridge, and others of repute, have given this organization their hearty indorsement. The subordinate camp at Amboy, designated as Wyman Encampment No. 1, has been in existence since the creation of the order. Its regular meetings are on the second and fourth Fridays, and the gatherings were formerly in the reading room. There are about twenty-five members, and the condition of the camp is not altogether flattering. The present officers are M. T. Spencer, C.; E. J. Post, L.; L. A. Hulbert, A.; Col. George Ryon, S.; J. H. Hazen, C.; R. Rose, O.D.; Thos. Meacham, O.G.; E. Dunsmore, C. of O.

In 1863 the Brotherhood of the Footboard, an association of locomotive engineers to elevate their standing as such and their character as men, and for mutual insurance and assistance in sickness and distress, was instituted at Detroit. Its prosperity very soon waned throughout the country; and then it was reorganized at Indianapolis, August 17, 1864, the anniversary of its establishment, under the style of the Grand International Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers. A division was formed in Amboy subordinate to the Brotherhood of the Footboard, but it was short-lived. A charter was issued to I. R. Patterson, December 25, 1865, with power to organize Amboy division No. 1, and on January 8 following a meeting was convened, at which B. C. Howard, chief engineer of Centralia division, presided. S. L. Peters and others from Aurora division assisted. The initiates were J. W. Howe, S. Holsted, W. B. Trude, F. Westcott, S. C. Huff, C. Putnam, C. H. Marston, Pat Allen, and D. Reynolds. The following were also the first officers: C. H. Marston, C.E.; F. Westcott, F.E.; J. W. Howe, S.E.; I. R. Patterson, F.A.E.; C. Putnam, S.A.E.; and W. B. Trude, T.A.E. At the second meeting, on the 15th, J. Hath-

away, A. McCall, C. Randall, and H. McGraw, old members, joined the division, and P. Battles was initiated. The present officers are J. Shaw, C.E.; (vacant) F.E.; F. Weise, S.E.; O. Comstock, F.A.E.; A. Armstrong, S.A.E.; Wm. Stine, T.A.E.; G. Bustick, G.; and C. H. Rosier, C. R. Rosier, chief engineer, a highly esteemed man, died February 17, 1881, and Mr. Shaw was elected to his place, leaving the office of first engineer vacant. The members number thirty-six, and the division is in a flourishing condition. Meetings are held on the second and fourth Sunday afternoons.

The charter of Amboy Lodge, No. 35, of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen, was granted January 19, 1879, to Titus Hinchcliff, Henry Williams, Wm. H. Dean, Thomas Hinchcliff, Harry Luscombe, W. M. Palmer, Henry Schermerhorn, I. M. Farris, Garrett H. King, Abe Schermerhorn, C. R. Rosier, and Wm. Linsea. This lodge was organized by John Walsh, of Capital Lodge, of Springfield, with eight members. The first elective officers were Titus Hinchcliff, M.; Henry Williams, V.M.; W. H. Dean, R.S.; Wm. Palmer, F.S.; Thomas Hinchcliff, T. Present officers: W. H. Dean, M.; C. R. Rosier, V.M.; F. H. Schermerhorn, R.S.; C. R. Rosier, F.S.; Thomas Hinchcliff, T. The lodge embraces twenty-six members, and is enjoying a period of much prosperity. Stated meetings are on the first and third Sundays, in Engineers' Hall. The order is designed for social improvement, and provides a system of insurance, and organized mutual assistance to members and their families.

In 1867 the conductors formed a union, and in 1868 it was changed to division No. 1 of the Conductors' Brotherhood, a charter being granted August 4. In its last state it was a benevolent association, but its existence was of brief duration.

Division No. 1, A.O.H., was organized September 26, 1875, by John D. Neill, of La Salle, with a membership of thirty. It holds regular meetings and is in fair condition.

One of the most thoughtful sources of public intelligence is a good circulating library. The Illinois Central Railroad Company, with that interest in the welfare and improvement of its employés for which it is noted, early conceived the design of providing books for the use of such as would avail themselves of the privilege, and accordingly established in Chicago a library of nearly 2,000 volumes. In the winter of 1864-5 the books were divided and removed from that city, one-half being sent to Centralia and the other to Amboy. Here was formed the Illinois Central Library Association, composed at first exclusively of employés of the company, but to which others were afterward admitted; not on equal terms, however, but by paying an annual fee double that of the railroad men, and being deprived, besides,



of all voice in its management and in the choice of officers. As was sure to be the case, this discrimination, though not unsupported by very plausible reasons, bred, or rather at once made, two parties, a condition not calculated to deepen interest or increase harmony. Notwithstanding, the association flourished and the books were much used, while the company for a number of years paid the rents and the librarian. At length, funds and more books being wanted, an excursion to Dunleith and Dubuque, under the auspices of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, was planned, and was liberally encouraged by the general superintendent, E. D. Jeffrey, who had been more instrumental, perhaps, than any other man in originating the library. The excursion took place in August 1869, and the net returns amounted to \$613.45. Thus improved in condition, the association bought more books, which inspired fresh interest. But this did not last long, and when the apparent concern of the members, or a large majority of them, had disappeared, late in 1872 the company discontinued the allowance for rent. It languished until the early part of 1875, when Mr. J. C. Jacobs, division superintendent, who had not only taken from the start a leading personal interest in the success of the library, but because of his position was clothed with a certain responsibility for its care and use, proposed a reorganization under the laws of the state. This meeting with favor, it was incorporated, April 2, 1875, with the name of the Amboy Library Association, Mr. Jacobs being named in the charter as president, E. Hull as librarian and secretary, and Josiah Little as treasurer. Messrs. Jacobs, Little, Hull, L. T. Moore and Lemuel Bourne, upon the advice of the railroad employes who were members of the old organization, were selected as trustees. On March 18, 1876, the trustees adopted a constitution and by-laws, which put all members on an equality. On October 3, 1877, the association ran an excursion to Dubuque and cleared \$963. Altogether there have been two hundred dollars' worth of books purchased and added to the original stock, besides the donation of a lot from New York; and now there are 755 volumes of standard works on history, biography, science and fiction. The library is kept in the reading room over W. B. Andruss & Son's store, and is open at stated times throughout the week. The membership numbers 93. The librarian, Mrs. M. L. Knowles, has been in charge about a year, and the present prosperity is due very largely to her exertions and her devotion to the interests of the association. Mr. L. T. Moore, too, has labored with especial zeal for its success. The board of trustees remains the same as at first, except that Mr. W. E. Ives has succeeded Mr. Hull. Mr. Jacobs is still president.

The Old Settlers' Association of Lee county organized and held

its first gathering in 1873. W. H. Haskell, of "The Amboy Journal," in the issue of November 16, 1872, commenced agitating the subject, and continued it until a meeting was had on the 22d of February in the city council room at Amboy; J. B. Tuttle presided, and Mr. Haskell acted as secretary. Wednesday, June 4, 1873, was designated as the day for the old settlers' meeting to be held at this city, and a committee of arrangements was appointed. At the time fixed about 200 gathered to greet old friends, renew acquaintance and exchange reminiscences. Speeches were made, and otherwise the features were those of an ordinary picnic. A committee was appointed, composed of one member from each township, making a total of twenty-two, with C. F. Ingals as chairman and W. H. Haskell as secretary. The second annual reunion, held also at Amboy, on June 18, 1874, was a decided success, over 2,000 people being present. The venerable Father Dixon occupied a seat on the stand, where he received the congratulations of friends and the respects of the multitude. Col. John Dement delivered an address on this occasion, and was elected president for the ensuing year. Mr. Haskell was continued secretary of the executive committee. The third annual meeting was held again at Amboy, June 19 of the following year, and Dr. Charles Gardner was chosen president. In 1876 the association met at Dixon, and Col. Dement was again chosen president and Mr. Haskell secretary. June 22 was the day of the gathering. At this time a cane made from Black Hawk's pirogue was presented to Col. Dement as an appropriate surprise. Removal of the files of "The Journal" from the office to be bound prevents a further connected account of this organization. The reunion this year (1881) was at Amboy, on the 1st of September. The grove belonging to the city is the meeting-place, and Dr. C. E. Loomis is present secretary.

At a meeting of the citizens of Amboy and vicinity, held November 5, 1856, Prairie Repose Cemetery Association was organized, and the following persons were elected officers: Joseph Farwell, president; M. L. Arnold, secretary and treasurer, and J. F. Powers, C. A. Wall and Jacob Luce directors. This board was instructed to purchase from Harvey Barrel four acres in a square, in the northwest corner N.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of N.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 15 in this township, for \$600. This was done, and the ground laid out in lots, with three driveways from east to west, and alleys of four feet width from north to south between the lots. There are 442 of these lots  $10 \times 20$  feet, besides 60 on the north end  $10 \times 26$  feet, used for a Potter's field. The following soldiers, some of whom died on the battle-field and others after their return home, are buried in this cemetery: Wm. H. Arnold, Co. A, 111th N. Y. Vols.; Frank D. Brown, Co. F, 75th Ill. Vols.; Edward W. Bull, Co. I, 89th Ill. Vols.; C. E. Blanchard (regiment unknown); John Burrington, Co. D,

46th Ill. Vols.; Albion Comstock, Co. I, 89th Ill. Vols.; Wm. H. Curly, Co. C, 13th Ill. Vols.; J. M. Crampton, Co. I, 31st Mass. Vols.; C. H. Daw (regiment unknown), C. A. Harper (regiment unknown), Harrison Hale (regiment unknown), Cyrus D. Lyman, Co. E, 7th Ill. Cav.; H. H. Morey, Co. C, 89th Ill. Vols.; John Madden, Co. D, 46th Ill. Vols.; James A. McGary (regiment unknown), Frank H. Mellen, Co. A, 89th Ill. Vols.; Albert W. Preston, Co. E, 140th Ill. Vols., and Henry Sanger, 2d Me. Vols., honorably discharged therefrom, and in 1863 reenlisted in the 52d or 57th Ill. Vols. The present officers of this association are John C. Church, president; Wm. B. Andruss, secretary and treasurer; Wm. T. French, Henry T. Ford and Wm. E. Ives, directors.

Although the Lee County Agricultural Society is now extinct, it was once so prominent an institution that it requires some mention. It was organized in 1854, and incorporated in July 1857. The third annual fair was in Amboy, in 1856, and from that time this was the regular place for holding the exhibitions. In 1858 grounds were leased in Farwell's addition for a term of five years, and buildings erected thereon. The society ceased to be of any public usefulness after the expiration of this lease. In 1863 a fair was held, or attempted to be held, but it was a failure. There was a rival society in Dixon, and overtures were made by each looking to consolidation, but whether it was ever effected we are not informed. At all events it did not have the support of Amboy, and so far as this place is concerned the active history of the society ends during the time of the war. J. B. Wyman, C. F. Ingals and R. N. Woods were presidents, and Josiah Little, N. S. Chase and H. G. Pratt were secretaries.

#### TEMPERANCE WORK AND THE DEMAND FOR IT.

At the beginning of the year 1867 there were nine licensed saloons, seven sold intoxicating liquors and two retailed beer. This was not an unusual number, but about the average for many years. These dens made men shameless, brutal, vagrant, and dangerous. Drunkenness and its concomitant routs, frays, thefts, insults, deadly accidents and blood-shedding became almost too familiar for comment. Ladies upon the street were obliged to push their way through maudlin, ribald crowds, and unoffending citizens were never safe from being set upon and beaten by cowardly gangs of drunken roughs, for such offenses were not uncommon.

During the year succeeding the war no less than five attempts were made to burn the business part of the city. Add to these public annoyances and dangers all the disgrace, orphanage, unseen woe and

social wretchedness, and it will be seen that there was strong moving cause for temperance work.

To overcome as much as possible these licensed, alarming evils, many coöperative temperance and total-abstinence efforts have been started and maintained, until periodical apathy would strangle them to death or neutralize their influence. We can only briefly refer to the principal ones. The first organized movement to "suppress the unlawful sale of ardent spirits and gambling" was the "Carson League." A meeting of the inhabitants, attended by many of the leading men of the place, was held on February 4, 1856, in the Baptist church, and a constitution and by-laws common to this form of organization were adopted. Alonzo Kinyon filled the chair and J. F. Pirie acted as secretary. The business was conducted by twelve directors, whose duties were to attend to the enforcement of the law. The first board consisted of D. S. Clark, R. M. Brigham, J. Clark, R. H. Mellen, J. D. Weddell, John Dexter, W. E. Ives, J. F. Powers, A. E. Wilcox, H. M. Taylor, A. Kinyon and C. Bridgman. Stock was taken to the amount of \$600,000, and those subscribing gave what was called stock notes, on which the directors were authorized to make assessments "to defray the expenses of the league," which included the expenses of prosecutions. This league existed about two years.

We find it stated in "The Times," in 1858, that the Sons of Temperance and Good Templars were meeting in the same hall with the Masons and the Odd-Fellows. The lodge of Good Templars was organized in the spring of that year, but its existence was not long continued. After this had lapsed, in January 1862, a lodge of this order was started at Binghamton. In March a "section of the Cadets of Temperance" was instituted in Amboy for the training and instruction of the youth. Amboy Lodge, No. 646, was organized in November 1865, and enjoyed a tolerable lease of life. Friendship Lodge, No. 512, was started in October 1870. Organizations of a transient character have been formed at times to arouse the slumbering sense of the people when urgent labors were necessary to carry elections, and otherwise to checkmate the debauching alcoholic interest.

Reform division, No. 555, Sons of Temperance, was organized February 24, 1862, under the jurisdiction of the Grand Division of Illinois, E. D. Lamoine, of Paw Paw, being Grand Worthy Patriarch, and Geo. L. Moore, of Lebanon, Grand Scribe. Charter members: W. H. Tousley, N. T. Pratt, W. B. Andruss, C. P. Miller, F. I. Foot, Wm. H. Hayward, John Carter, jr., M. Gilleas, Chas. A. Allen, D. C. Udell, J. A. Scollay, W. C. Sears, D. C. Graham, D. B. Wall, Chas. E. Ives and Samuel E. Appleton. The division has had its days of prosperity—when high tide came and multitudes floated in,—and of adversity—



when the tide ebbed away, and those of least principle or will-power dropped out : but a few have always held on to the good craft. The period of greatest prosperity was in 1876 and 1877, during and since which time over 200 have been initiated. This division, with the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, organized in December 1876, and the Red Ribbon Club, organized in 1877, worked in harmony together, the reading-room over the store of W. B. Andruss & Son being their headquarters. The club has ceased as an organization, leaving the other two bodies still doing effective work. Present officers : Mrs. Daniel Bull, W.P.; Mrs. C. W. Bell, W.A.; Daniel Bull, R. S.; Miss Emma Sleeper, A.R.S.; Wm. B. Andruss, F.S.; Edgar Miller, Treas.; Rev. N. A. Reed, D.D., Chaplain; B. B. Howard, C.; Mrs. A. Lossie, A.C.; Mrs. M. J. Mingle, I.S.; C. W. Bell, O.S., and C. W. Deming, P.W.P. Representatives to the grand division : C. W. Deming, E. Miller, C. P. Miller, W. B. Andruss, J. S. Oleson, C. W. Bell, Rev. Dr. N. A. Reed, G. W. Mingle, Mrs. M. J. Mingle, Daniel Bull, Mrs. Daniel Bull and B. B. Howard; of these Messrs. Andruss and Deming are representatives of the Grand Division of Illinois to the National Division of North America.

"On November 19, 1876, a few ladies who had attended the state annual convention at Dixon, and returned with hearts quickened to the need of gospel temperance work in their midst, extended an invitation by the various pulpits to all interested in temperance to meet Tuesday afternoon, November 21, in the Baptist church, to organize a Woman's Christian Temperance Union." A committee was named to obtain a good lecturer, and another to collect funds from the citizens to pay the expense of the lecture-course. Prayer-meetings were appointed to move the hearts of the people in the new work, and three of those were held in the Methodist church. Volunteer laborers having come forward, on December 2 a called meeting was held in the Congregational parlor to district the city, so that the canvassers could go to work soliciting members and money. Their success was very encouraging. Mrs. Foster, of Iowa, was engaged, and gave three lectures on December 17, 18 and 19, and then it was decided to organize, which was done in the Baptist church on the last day mentioned. The officers chosen were Mrs. Mingle, president; Mrs. Vaughan, Mrs. Poland and Mrs. Badger, vice-presidents; Mrs. Williams, recording secretary; Mrs. Chase, corresponding secretary, and Mrs. Reagan, treasurer. The standing committees were : on reading-room, Mrs. Andruss, Mrs. Miller, Mrs. Poland, Mrs. Williams; on public work, Mrs. Battis; on literature, Mrs. Chase; on statistics, Mrs. Reagan; on finance, Mrs. Miller. Most untiring and zealous endeavors have been put forth by these christian women to secure a ripe harvest of good works in the com-

munity, and their hands have been royally upheld by the citizens. The Union occupies the cheerful and tastefully furnished hall over the hardware store of W. B. Andruss & Son, on Main street. Gospel meetings are held here every Sabbath afternoon under the auspices of the Union. These ladies inaugurated a free reading-room, and dedicated the hall to the high objects of social, religious and intellectual culture, with devotional and literary exercises on April 17, 1877. The Library Association uses the same hall, holding under the Union.

The Father Matthew Total Abstinence and Benevolent Society, founded by P. A. Boland and named in honor of the great Irish benefactor and apostle of temperance, is an independent body chartered by the state, and was organized December 15, 1872. It has sixty members and is in a flourishing condition. This is a valuable auxiliary to the reform movement.

Banner Temple, No. 24, of the United Order of Ancient Templars, was organized in August, 1889, with thirty-four members, and was chartered October 21. Present officers: Lee Cronkrite, T.; Mrs. C. A. Bartlett, P.T.; Frank Almy, V.T.; Frank Marrow, R.; Mrs. Ford, A.R.; H. T. Ford, F.; H. Shurtleff, C.; Miss Fisher, M.; (vacant) A.M.; Mrs. Henry T. Ford, T.; Mrs. Trainer, W.; Mr. Skinner, G. Meetings are held on Monday nights in Odd-Fellows' Hall. This order furnishes insurance to its members, and embraces as comprehensive objects as any of the benevolent associations.

#### JOURNALISM IN AMBOY.

Under this caption the "Amboy Journal" of April 11, 1874, narrates its own history to that date in the subjoined sketch:

"In May or June, 1855, the 'Amboy Printing Association' was formed, which secured the publication of the 'Lee County Times,' with Augustus Noel Dickens, a brother of the author Charles Dickens, as editor. So far as we can learn the stockholders were A. Kinyon, W. E. Ives, John L. Skinner, John B. Wyman, H. B. Judkins, W. B. Stuart. August 1, 1855, as appears by a bond in our possession, one H. B. Judkins bound himself in the sum of \$200 to said association in consideration of the transfer of the press, etc., to publish or cause to be published the said 'Lee County Times' for the space of one year. Volume 1, number 33, was issued February 7, 1856, by H. G. Pratt as editor and proprietor, and this is the oldest paper on our files. Volume 1, number 41, was issued as the 'Amboy Times,' by Cottrell & Pratt, April 3, 1856; and that name was continued for ten years, or until volume 11, number 18, published by Goff & Shaw, February 8, 1866. In the meantime, however, publishers had succeeded each other in the following order: Cottrell, Pratt & Miller; Cottrell, Pratt &

Somes; Pratt & Co. (John Lewis, James F. Somes); Pratt, Shaw & Co. (Joseph Lewis); Gardner, Shaw & Lewis; and Pratt & Shaw. When Goff & Shaw issued volume 1, number 1, of the 'Lee County Journal,' February 25, 1866, they called it the 'new series,' and dropped the record of the eleven years and twenty weeks of a newspaper issue from the same office. This course we consider unwise, and propose now to remedy by calling the present issue of the 'Journal' volume 19, number 1.

"Burrington & Shaw published the 'Lee County Journal' from February, 1867, to December, 1867, when we find a card published giving notice that they would suspend the issue of any paper for two weeks, because of the want of payments and patronage on the part of business men and subscribers. From January 16 to December 24, 1868, B. F. Shaw was editor and proprietor.

"Some graceless scamp has stolen the files from the last date to January 6, 1870, when we find the paper issued by Stimson & Corbus until March 10, when the thief, or the most improvident publishers, again leave us no files up to September; when Wm. Parker changed the name to the one now used, and continued its publication for just two years, to September 6, 1872, when we [W. H. Haskell] bought the 'Journal,' paid off its mortgages, began to improve the paper and increase its circulation, having gained 200 subscribers in nineteen months without especial effort at solicitation."

On October 15, 1879, Mr. Haskell sold the office to E. W. Faxon & Co., and on February 1, 1881, Dr. C. E. Loomis, of Lee Center, purchased it and is the present editor and proprietor. The paper has always been republican in politics.

#### TORNADO.

The great tornado of 1860 occurred on Sunday, June 3. It began its ravages as far west as Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and gathering force as it proceeded, left a track of death and desolation behind. In the vicinity of Clinton twenty-five persons were killed. The town of Comanche, on the Iowa side of the Mississippi, was totally destroyed; and Albany, on the Illinois side, shared nearly the same fate. In the two places the killed and wounded reached not fewer than 125 persons. The towns of Lyndon and Mount Pleasant, in Whiteside county, suffered severely, and in the neighborhood of Morrison and Sterling about a dozen were killed and a larger number wounded. From the point where the hurricane struck this county to Bradford township it spared nothing in its course. Trees, crops, stock, fences and buildings were swept away with terrific fury, and numbers of persons, not a few frightfully mangled, were killed outright, while a still larger number

sustained different degrees of injury. In its progress onward from Bradford it alternately raised and lowered, leaving evidences of its violence at intervals. Its track was about forty rods wide, and the ground over which it passed had the appearance of having been swept by a mighty torrent. In its twistings and whirlings it described a zigzag course, with arms and angles jutting out at short distances. The general direction was from west to east through Amboy, about a mile south of the north line of the township. The first casualty was the serious injury of a man named Emmet, his wife, two children, and a hired man, who were living in a house owned by E. B. Stiles. The building was demolished. The next place visited east of this was Mr. Morse's. His house was destroyed, and Mrs. Morse was hurled five rods and disemboweled. She survived in this horrible condition about an hour. Mr. Morse was despaired of for some time, but finally recovered and is now living. One of the sons was slightly injured, another dangerously, and a daughter had both legs broken and died. James Rosbrugh's farm, occupied by Edward Sacket, was next in the track. The house, barn and blacksmith shop, were carried entirely away; and all the family of five persons seriously and some dangerously injured. F. H. Northway's buildings suffered total wreck. The family were taken up with the house into the air, but fortunately all escaped with the exception of cuts, bruises and broken ribs. A boulder weighing a quarter of a ton was lifted at this place and carried ten rods. From here the storm headed more northerly, and John Crombie's house shared the general ruin; one of his little children was killed, and another was so hurt that it barely recovered. Lyman Bixby's family took refuge in their cellar half a minute before the tempest reached them and were saved, though the house and barn went to atoms. Farther north James Moffat's house was unroofed; and cuts and bruises, from which no one was exempted, were the extent of injuries here. R. D. Peironnet lost his barn, back kitchen and outbuildings. A traveler, who had stopped at a vacant building near, and had the calves of his legs nearly torn off, was at once brought to Mr. P.'s for care. Onward the destroying force went to Isaac Gage's; but we shall let Mr. Gage tell his own fearful story of loss and bereavement in the picturesque account which he has given of this calamity, and on which we mainly rely for adequate description. P. D. La Forge's handsome residence was partly unroofed, a back kitchen blown away, and his barn rent to pieces.

From this point we prefer Mr. Gage's striking statement of his personal experiences at the supreme instant of disaster, and of his intimate knowledge of the ravages made in his neighborhood and to the eastward. It was published in the Amboy "Journal" February 7, 1874.



"This wind storm, called a tornado, struck our house on the eve of June 3, 1860, about nine o'clock. It being Sabbath evening we had retired rather early, and I soon fell asleep to be awakened by a terrible crash as of thunder, seemingly without a cause. For the next instant it was so still one could have heard a pin fall in any part of the house, but for a moment only; then, sir, there was a sound which I shall ever fail to describe, but I will give the best version my poor mind can. It was not thunder, and though it lasted but a moment it shook the earth for miles around. Another moment and everything was as still as death; then instantly came the grand crash, and we were in the elements. Now it is partly by sight and partly by feeling that I shall attempt to describe what took place. I jumped out of bed and grasped the door-handle to go for our children, but could not open the door. Suddenly it opened and knocked me down on one knee, and violently dragged or shoved me about five feet out of doors to the ground, while the house and my four boys went into the air far above my head; some of the furniture, or some portion of the house, struck me in the back and passed on. This confused state of things lasted perhaps five minutes, I should think not longer, and then out came the moon as bright as day; it seemed as if it wanted to show us what desolation and destruction had been done. Here and there lay heaps of rubbish, parts of the house and some parts of the furniture, all broken small enough for stove wood, and only three out of seven of our family were able to see this ruin. Some were dead, and some were not conscious of anything that was going on, though yet alive. A twin boy of eleven years had his life literally whipped out of him; he was dead when found. My eldest, a boy of seventeen, was carried through the air and debris the distance of sixty rods or over, and was so bruised that his entire person after a few hours became perfectly pulp-like, resembling a blood-blister. He lived, however, until the seventh day, in the most wonderful agony. Most of the time he lay seemingly unconscious.

"The rest of the boys were not carried so far away. When we found my youngest son the little fellow looked most horrible, not a scrap of clothing on him save the collar of his shirt; his head was cut and bruised, and his body so bloody and dirty that we could scarcely see any human shape to him. We picked him and his little dead brother up about twelve rods from where the house had stood a few moments before.

"When we went to bed that evening a large kettle that would hold a barrel or more was standing under the eaves of the house, full of water; it was taken up and carried high enough to strike the corner of the barn about twelve feet from the ground, and there it sat where

the barn stood with two or three pailfuls of water in it yet. In the débris of the barn lay a young stable horse; when first seen he was on his back with the timbers piled upon and about him six feet high, and one large piece lay across his neck and held him down so firmly that he could not stir.

“From this point on in a southeast direction the surface of the earth was covered with bits of everything in the shape of fence rails, boards, timbers, etc. All seemed to have been carried with so great force that they were driven into the ground from three inches to one foot or more. One stick, thirteen feet long and about ten inches square, was taken over 100 rods from my house and thrust into the earth ten feet, at an angle of forty-five degrees. It seems that the air must have been full of every conceivable thing, parts of wagons and buggies and goods from the house were literally torn to fragments and scattered abroad. Before the storm I had two lumber wagons, after it I had only two wheels left.

“After leaving my place it struck Mr. Lorenzo Wood’s, there it entirely demolished the buildings (and they were many), but carried away nothing very heavy, except a few sheep that were transported something near twenty miles. His papers were found by honest men and returned. I think there were none on Mr. Wood’s farm seriously hurt, unless it was a tenant family [the Felties] who were lifted house and all into the air and carried in a southwesterly direction over the line fence into my field, and there caught by another current and carried in a circle back into the same field that they started from, making a distance of about fifty rods before the house was torn to pieces. Its course could be traced for weeks after, for in places the corners of the house struck into the earth, and in others the building dragged along and made large holes as if several wagon-loads of soil had been removed, and then elevated itself, no one knows how high, before coming to the final crash. As I said before, this family were somewhat hurt, but I think they all survived. One of the men who were in this house told me afterward that when it was in motion the stove rolled over the room like a ball, and all their furniture, with themselves, was pitched and tumbled about fearfully. At this point it seemed to reach out to the north about twenty rods and take in a Mr. Preston, who owned and lived on the Chadwick farm. It demolished all his buildings, and carried him with two of his children out through the tree-tops and landed them several rods from where they started unharmed, save some flesh wounds; but his only a son, a little boy, was killed outright. From there it passed on, devastating everything in its way, until it struck Mr. Martin Wright’s. It cleared him out, tearing down everything in its course, and threw him and his wife’s

sister up into some trees, broke out a large piece of the lady's jaw-bone, taking with it the teeth, and so nearly killed Mr. Wright that his life was despaired of for a long time. Both finally recovered, while Mrs. Wright, who was in the house at the same time and not hurt at all, died in less than ten days, as it was supposed, from fright. The cyclone moved from here to Mr. John Lane's, destroying everything, but killing no one. From this point it left Amboy township and visited the corner of Lee Center, passing into Bradford, doing serious damage to Mr. Darwin Woodruff's farm, lifting up his house and dashing it to fragments instantly, so injuring the inmates that they were taken up for dead, but they all recovered. Beyond this point for some miles it did little harm; but fourteen miles distant it descended, leaving articles taken from this neighborhood, and so lowering at intervals to deal out destruction; its force did not seem to abate until it reached Lake Michigan."

The many admirers of the late Col. Wyman will thank the Hon. B. H. Trusdell for the following graceful memoir of their lamented friend:

John B. Wyman, oldest of ten children, of Scotch ancestry, was born July 12, 1817; and was educated at a select school at Bolton, and at the public schools of Shrewsbury, Massachusetts. At the age of fourteen he ceased study altogether under the direction of tutors; and in view of his liberally practical acquirements in later life, may be said in truth to have been a thoroughly self-made man. Having quit school, he became employed in a clothing store in Shrewsbury; and in 1838, as a partner in a mercantile firm, opened the first ready-made clothing store in Cincinnati, Ohio. He remained in that city two years, and then returned to his native state to become a member of a firm engaged in the dry-goods business. At that time he was married to Miss Maria Bradley. In 1846 he was general clerk in the Springfield car and engine shops, and afterward superintended the construction of cars. He was a conductor on the New York and New Haven railroad in 1850, and subsequently superintendent of the Connecticut River railroad. In 1852 he entered the service of the Illinois Central Railroad Company, and assisted in the survey and construction under Col. R. B. Mason, general superintendent and engineer. He was first employed on the branch, but in 1853 was transferred to the main line, and accepted the superintendency of the north division. At the earliest moment he acquired an interest in Amboy and laid out Wyman's addition, and we may almost call him the father of the city. He settled permanently in the place on the completion of the passenger house, of which he was proprietor some time. He was twice mayor of Amboy, and the first incumbent of the office. His second

term was in 1860. Col. Wyman was fond of military life, and when a very young man trained in a rifle company in Shrewsbury. He was a member of the City Guards of Worcester, and later still in life captain of the Chicago Light Guards. On the breaking out of the war he was appointed assistant adjutant-general of Illinois, and rendered valuable aid in mustering into the service the first six regiments. He recruited at Amboy, Co. C, 13th reg. Ill. Vols., and on the organization of the regiment was elected colonel. He served in the southwest and was mortally wounded at Chichasaw Bayou, December 28, 1862, while directing the movements of his command. When Lieut-Col. Gorgas and others rushed to his assistance he said: "For God's sake, colonel, leave me and attend to those men."

His remains were brought to his home in Amboy, and a vast concourse witnessed the imposing funeral ceremonies. He was buried in Prairie Repose Cemetery, Amboy, but was afterward reinterred in Rosehill Cemetery, Chicago, where the privates and non-commissioned officers of his regiment, by whom he was much loved, erected a handsome monument to his memory, at a cost of \$1,300.

Col. Wyman was of medium statue, faultless physique, and dashing, captivating manners. He was a gallant, chivalrous gentleman in civil as well as military life. His looks and bearing elicited admiration, his noble qualities insured love and respect. He responded instantly to his country's call, and hoped to leave a deathless name inscribed high on the roll of its most glorious defenders. He met death in the morning of his career, too soon for his own and his country's good, but he met it face to face while leading his brave soldiers in a desperate assault.

He planted the seeds of glory, but died ere the full harvest; but while he was not permitted to give his name to the world, yet it will ever be cherished by all who knew his worth. It has been said of him that "he was as unselfish patriot and gallant soldier as ever drew blade or mounted horse." It may also be said that in all the relations of civil life, as citizen, husband, father, friend, he leaves without spot or blemish.

"Green be the turf above thee,  
Thou good, and true, and brave,  
None knew thee but to love thee,  
Nor named thee but to praise."

#### BIOGRAPHICAL.

JOSEPH B. APPLETON (deceased). Among the many well-known and influential families of New England the Appletons occupy a high place. Their genealogical record extends back to John Appleton, of Waldingfield, England, who was living in the year 1396; and from



the same source we learn that "Samuel Appleton, the common ancestor, so far as known, of all the name in New England, emigrated from Waldingfield, in the county of Suffolk, England, in the year 1635." From him have sprung many distinguished names in the business, professional and literary walks of life. The subject of this notice was born in Dublin, New Hampshire, March 10, 1819, and was put to the mercantile business, in which his father was engaged. His health gave way under confinement, and he was advised to turn his attention to farming. The Great West then offered inviting fields, and about 1842 he came to Illinois, stopping on his way at Batavia, New York, and teaching school awhile. His cousin, Cyrus Davis, was living at Dixon then, as he is at the present time. Mr. Appleton bought the E.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of N.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 22, Amboy township, from the Sawyers, who had squatted on it, and this is now a part of Gilson's addition to the city of Amboy. He tarried here thirteen months, and then returned east; in his absence the land in this township came into market, and to save it for Mr. Appleton, Cyrus Davis bought it from the government and conveyed it to him on his arrival in 1844. He afterward became the owner of five other "forties." When Amboy was started he entered into an arrangement with Gilson & Ransom, of La Salle, by which they were to lay out the tract above described into lots, and sell them, reserving only block eleven, where Mr. Sleeper lives, and which is known as "the Appleton place." Mr. Appleton was married on September 17, 1844, to Miss Abbie H. Hunt, of New Ipswich, New Hampshire. She was born in Dublin, in that state, December 11, 1820. Her father was clothier and did business in Dublin, and afterward in Jeffrey, where he died in 1866. Four children were the fruits of this union: Samuel E., Abbie R., Maria N., Isaac J. and Julia A. The latter died August 17, 1855, and Mr. Appleton on September 28 following. Mr. Appleton was one of the foremost citizens of the township, and held office at different times. His widow was married to Dr. True P. Sleeper, February 5, 1856, and by this marriage twins have been born: Anna A. and Emma A. Dr. Sleeper is a native of St. Albans, Maine, where he was born March 31, 1821. He prepared for the practice of medicine in Harvard University, and followed his profession six years in Maine. He was married in 1852, to Miss Emma Mitchell, who died of cholera in Bureau county, Illinois, only ten days after his arrival in the state. He has practiced medicine and dentistry most of the time since he has lived here.

SAMUEL E. APPLETON, dry-goods salesman, Amboy, was born on the site of Amboy September 7, 1845, and was the son of Joseph B. and Abbie H. Appleton. In May, 1864, he volunteered for one year in



CHESTER S. BADGER



Co. I, 134th Ill. Vols., and served nine months, doing garrison duty in Missouri and Kentucky. On July 1, 1865, he began as clerk in the store of L. Bourne, and has held that position continuously until the present time. He has been twice married: first on June 27, 1867, to Miss Mary E. Mikesell, who died December 31, 1870; and again April 12, 1874, to Miss Henrietta M. Christopher. By the first union he has one child, Elmer E.; and by the second two, Isaac E. and Guy W. Mrs. Appleton is a member of the Congregational church. He is an Odd-Fellow and a republican.

ELISHA MANNING, homœopathic physician and surgeon, Amboy, was born in Rush county, Indiana, September 7, 1845. His paternal grandfather's family removed in an early time from Pennsylvania to Ohio; and when his father was a young lad they came to Indiana. In 1850 his parents, Hiram and Elizabeth (Moore) Manning, settled in Jasper county, Illinois, where they have since lived. From there the doctor enlisted in Co. F, 46th Ill. Vols., in the autumn of 1861. He fought at Shiloh, was in the siege of Corinth, the battle of the Hatchie, and the siege of Vicksburg; and after the capitulation of the latter place campaigned in Mississippi, Tennessee, Arkansas and Louisiana, and as was usual saw a good deal of hard service and small fighting. Afterward he was at the taking of Fort Blakely and the city of Mobile. He "veteraned" January 4, 1864. His regiment held its organization four and one-half years, and 1,700 altogether were enrolled in it. He was mustered out at Baton Rouge, Louisiana, January 20, 1866, and paid off and disbanded at Camp Butler, Springfield, Illinois, February 1. From this time till the spring of 1873 he devoted himself to study. He attended the Freeport high school, and graduated there in June 1870. During part of his army service he was general assistant in hospital, and this drew his attention to the medical profession and excited a desire to become a physician. He now began reading medicine with Dr. N. F. Prentice, of Freeport; and in the years 1871-2-3 attended lectures at Hahnemann Medical College, Chicago, and graduated from that institution March 21, 1873. He located in Freeport in the office of his old preceptor who had just died, but in June, 1874, removed to Amboy, where he has secured a good practice. He is a member of the Illinois State Homœopathic Association and of the Rock River Valley Medical Association, and belongs to the United Workmen and the Legion of Honor. In politics he is a republican. In 1881 he received the appointment of examining surgeon for pensions for Lee county. The doctor is a Presbyterian and Mrs. Manning is a Congregationalist. He was married October 3, 1878, to Miss Clara E. Prentice, of Rockford. They have one son.

CHARLES A. WILCOX, homœopathic physician and surgeon, Amboy,



was born in Kendall county, Illinois, September 27, 1846. His parents were H. G. and Jemima (Nickerson) Wilcox. The Wilcoxes are a numerous family, and their ancestors came to America in the first settlement of the country. Dr. Wilcox was reared a farmer, and educated at Beloit College, Wisconsin. In 1867 and 1868 he was deputy postmaster at Ottawa, and in the latter year began the study of medicine with Dr. Chester Hard, of that city. He attended lectures at Rush Medical College, Chicago, and was graduated in February 1870, and immediately located at Utica, La Salle county, Illinois. At the end of six years he removed to Wilmington, Delaware, and resided there three years; and in 1879 returned west and settled in Amboy, where he has established a successful practice. His first marriage was with Mrs. Carrie M. (Sewell), widow of H. M. Higby. She died in 1878, leaving two children, Blanche E. and Bessie K. In 1879 he married Miss Isabella J. Gardner. The doctor is a Mason, and a member of the American Legion of Honor.

ALFRED H. EGAN, lumber, grain and coal dealer, Amboy, son of Michael and Ellen (Morris) Egan, was born in Amboy, January 27, 1855. He served five years at the machinist's trade and worked one year at the same after completing his apprenticeship. Then in 1879 he began selling lumber in company with his father: the latter withdrew from the partnership October 8, 1880, and Mr. Egan is now carrying on the business by himself. He is a democrat, a member of the Catholic church, and served as alderman from 1879 to 1881. His marriage with Miss Mary E. Madden, daughter of John Madden, founder and machinist, of the firm of Donohue & Madden, Mendota, took place October 1, 1879. Their child, John M., was born September 1, 1881.

JOHN B. FELKER, physician and surgeon, Amboy, son of Abraham and Catherine (Wingert) Felker, was born in Washington county, Maryland, November 19, 1839. He is of German ancestry. His great grandfather Felker was a cavalry soldier in the German army, and emigrated to America before the independence of the colonies. His grandfather John Felker was a soldier of the revolution, and his grandfather Jacob Wingert was a United Brethren preacher. In 1855 Dr. Felker's father emigrated to Ogle county, Illinois, and settled at Mount Morris. Our subject was educated at Rock River Seminary at that place; and while young began the study of medicine under Dr. G. W. Hewitt, of Franklin Grove. He attended lectures at Rush Medical College, Chicago; graduated in 1860, and located in practice at Ogle Station, now Ashton. In the summer of 1862 he received the appointment of assistant surgeon of the 34th Ill. Vols., but a few days after was thrown from his buggy, and his right leg was broken at the ankle joint, which was the second injury this limb had received. From this cause he did

not enter the service. In the spring of 1863 he settled in Amboy, where he has since resided and practiced his profession with success. He belongs to the North Central Medical Association, which meets annually at Wenona, and to the Illinois State Medical Association, and the American Medical Association. Dr. and Mrs. Felker are members of the Congregational church, but the latter formerly belonged to the German Reformed. He has held the office of trustee a number of years, and is now president of the board. He has been a Mason twenty years. In 1880 the democrats of Lee and Ogle counties honored him with the nomination for state senator. He has served as alderman several years, and is filling his fourth consecutive term as mayor of the city of Amboy. Dr. Felker celebrated his marriage with Miss E. Jennie Miller on November 19, 1867. They have had four children: Hartley Trusdell (dead), May Gertrude, John Boggs, and Abraham Henry.

LYMAN C. WHEAT, merchant, Amboy, was born in Putney, Vermont, in 1821. In 1828 his parents, Josiah and Mary (Black) Wheat, moved to New York and settled in Steuben county, where our subject was reared and received an academic education. Until he came west in 1843, his time was principally spent in teaching select and public schools. In midsummer he arrived with his little family in Lee county, and for a short time lived on the Dixon and Chicago road, but in the autumn removed to the former place and took up his residence for two years in the land office. He continued to teach when his health would permit, and in 1845 went to Lee Center to live, and for a number of years was a trustee of the academy and active in promoting the interests of the institution. About 1854 he bought out Charles Hitchcock and went to merchandising; in 1865 he transferred his business to Amboy; and about 1872 brought his family here. Both he and his wife are members of the Congregational church, and he is a republican. His first marriage was on August 20, 1840, to Miss Mary Warnick, who bore him six children, as follows: Josephine, born December 13, 1841; George W., November 8, 1843; Addie N., June 12, 1849, married E. C. Gridley, and died October 3, 1874; Alice May, December 2, 1854; Fred Augustus, July 18, 1857; and Lizzie Jane, December 9, 1858, died March 12, 1861. His wife died July 31, 1862; and on August 23, 1863, he married Harriet Lucretia (Eaton), widow of Henry C. Nash. By this second marriage he has four children: Willie Henry, born October 16, 1864, died September 12, 1865; Charles Lyman, December 8, 1865; Nellie L., June 4, 1868; and Edwin Densmore, March 18, 1871. George enlisted in Co. E, 75th Ill. Vols., in 1862; he fought at the battle of Perryville and was wounded in the hip, and he was last seen sitting against a

tree. No further knowledge of him rewarded the efforts made to learn more of his fate. He sleeps for the flag.

CALVIN D. VAUGHAN, furniture dealer and undertaker, Amboy, eldest son of Nathan A. and Sally S. (Baker) Vaughan, was born in Plattsburg, New York, July 28, 1828. His uncle, Colonel Vaughan, and his grandfather Baker, a captain of militia, both fought at the battle of Plattsburg in 1814, each having command according to his rank. Mr. Vaughan received an academic education in his native town, and in 1851 he became an assistant in the office of the county clerk, David H. Parsons, at Plattsburg. He remained in that employment three years, and in October, 1854, emigrated to this state and located at Amboy. He began early in the furniture and undertaking business, and has followed it since without interruption, except from the disastrous fires which have visited the city, and by which he has sustained heavy losses. He was married on February 22, 1855, to Miss Louise M. Balch. They have had six children, all of whom are living: Lottie L., Hattie D., Frank C., Fred N., Wallie B., and Louie S. Mr. Vaughan is an Odd-Fellow of twelve years' standing, and has borne Masonic honors somewhat longer; in politics he has been a democrat from his youth up. He was a trustee of Amboy when it was under village organization, has been alderman of the city, mayor twice, township clerk, and is at present school treasurer. He was also clerk of the court of common pleas of Amboy from its organization till it was discontinued. For thirty-five years he has been in communion in the Baptist church, and has held official relation as clerk, trustee and treasurer. Mrs. Vaughan was formerly a Presbyterian, but during many years has been a member of the same denomination.

HENRY E. BADGER, miller, farmer and tradesman, Amboy, was born in Broome county, New York, in 1816. He was raised a millwright, educated at the academy at Elmira, and followed school teaching as a vocation five years. In 1841 he removed to Corning, Steuben county, and engaged in the manufacture of furniture until 1849, when he came west and settled at Binghamton. In 1851 he entered into the manufacture of plows in partnership with Frederick Bainter, but after two years bought his partner's interest, and continued the business alone until 1858, when he discontinued it altogether. In company with his brother Chester he purchased the mill at Binghamton from his brothers Warren and Simon, and they immediately rebuilt it into a steam mill. In 1872 it was burnt, and Mr. Badger bought his brother's interest and built another the same year on the old site. In 1878 he united his son Warren with himself under the style of H. E. Badger & Son, and this firm owned and operated the mill until it was struck by lightning and consumed, the present year, inflicting a loss of \$10,000. They also



merchandise in Amboy, and carry on farming. Mr. Badger has been twice married; first in May, 1841, to Miss Catherine Gay, who died a little more than a year afterward, leaving a daughter. In 1845 he married Miss Catherine Clark, by whom he has had four children. As will be seen, the subject of this sketch has been a live business man; he has also been no less energetic and stirring in religious and political matters. He has belonged to the Methodist church over forty-five years, and his great usefulness in his church relations is gratefully recognized. His official connection in the offices of steward, trustee, class leader and Sabbath-school superintendent has been constant and faithful, and in the temperance cause also he has done much good service. Mrs. Badger has been an exemplary member of the same church thirty-five years. Mr. Badger was at first a democrat, but renounced his party when it attempted to make Kansas a slave state, and at once gave his influential assistance in organizing the republican party, of which he has since been a prominent member in the county, having always rendered efficient aid in maintaining its supremacy. He has held the township offices of school trustee, road commissioner, and supervisor, the latter eight years.

CHESTER BADGER, farmer, Amboy, son of Chester S. and Lois (Bird) Badger, was born in Colesville, Broome county, New York, in 1823. His father was a native of Massachusetts, and his mother of Pennsylvania. Mr. Badger was reared a hotel boy, and as such worked for his uncle between the ages of twelve and eighteen. He went to school more or less during that time. In 1840 he emigrated to Lee county, and engaged in farming with his parents until 1848, when he enlisted as a private in the 11th Ill. Vols., and served eighteen months in New Mexico under Gen. Sterling Price. He had four comrades, the only soldiers in the Mexican war from his part of the county: David Whitney and Jeffrey Cook, from Sublette, and James and Beeler, from Amboy. He came home in 1849, and the next year went overland to California, where he remained one year. After his return he engaged for two years in the manufacture of plows at Binghamton, and then went to milling in company with H. E. Badger and W. H. Badger. This firm rebuilt the old water-power mill into a steam-mill. Mr. Badger retired from the business when the property was burned in 1872, and since that has been farming. In politics he is a democrat. He has been elected to the office of supervisor five times, and has been a leading man in Amboy township many years. On March 16, 1853, he celebrated his marriage with Miss Mary A. Cushman, who was born March 11, 1834. Their three children are Cornelia E., Duer Chester, and Robert. Miss Cornelia is a member of the Methodist church.



FREDERICK R. DUTCHER, farmer, Amboy, was born in Canaan, Litchfield county, Connecticut, in 1804. His paternal ancestors emigrated from Amsterdam in 1720 and settled in New York. At our first call we found Mr. Dutcher sitting in a well-preserved rocking-chair which his grandfather, Ruluff Dutcher, brought from Holland. At thirteen our subject began tending a store, and from that time till very recent years he has been closely identified with mercantile pursuits. He was married at Lockport, New York, in 1830, to Miss Harriet Phillips, daughter of John Phillips, the first anti-masonic sheriff elected when the Morgan excitement raged. She died in 1839, leaving two children. In 1845 he was married to the widow of George W. Hawley, formerly Emily Pratt. In 1838 Mr. Dutcher came west and located in Dixon, where he sold goods several years. In 1839 he was elected justice of the peace and held that office until he removed to Rocky Ford in 1848. He took an interesting part in the division of Ogle county and circulated a petition to advance that end. Smith Gilbraith and himself, both Dixon men, were deputed by the citizens to attend the legislature and lobby the division. They spent the most of the winter of 1838-9 at Vandalia, and secured the appointment of a committee favorable to their interests, which embraced also the location of the county seat at Dixon. Mr. Dutcher has been a lifelong democrat, and has always taken a leading part in local politics. He has had a considerable acquaintance with prominent men in his party, and enjoyed their confidence. When he came west he brought letters of introduction from William L. Marcy and Washington Hunt. He issued the call for the first democratic meeting ever held in Lee county. In the Douglas-Stewart race for congress in 1838, when Mr. Douglas contemplated contesting Stewart's election, he entrusted Mr. Dutcher with the investigations in this part of the district, and the latter rode to Galena on horseback on that business. He has two relics in the form of letters from the "Little Giant," written at this time. Mr. Dutcher laid out the village of Shelburn at Rocky Ford, but has lived to see it dissipated by time and circumstances. He was president of the Shelburn Manufacturing Company which built and controlled the large mill and distillery at that place.

JOHN C. CHURCH, farmer, Amboy, second child of Sylvester and Lucinda (Miles) Church, was born March 15, 1817, in Chenango county, New York. He learned the blacksmith's trade with his father, and worked at it till the summer of 1838, when he came to Palestine Grove (now Amboy township), where he has since had his home. Mr. Church was married December 7, 1842, to Cyrene, daughter of Joseph Farwell. Their children have been George Henry (dead), Charles Augustus, Lucy Maria (dead), Lucy Anna (dead), Ella, Joseph Fre-

mont, Eva (dead), Cyrus and Cyrene, twins (dead), and John Albert. Mr. and Mrs. Church have been members of the Congregational church forty-one years; and they assisted to organize the Palestine Grove church, the first of that denomination in Lee county. His official connection as deacon and trustee extends over a period of many years of useful christian labor. He has been elected to the offices of assessor, collector, supervisor, coroner, and road commissioner; the office of supervisor he filled three successive terms, and he is now coroner for the second time. In 1840 he cast his first presidential ballot for General Harrison, voting at Nauvoo. During his stay in that city he boarded a short time with the prophet Joe Smith. In the autumn of 1840 he traveled in the south, working in different places. His farm of 109 acres, adjacent to the city of Amboy, is valued at \$5,500. He is a firm republican.

The LITTLE family traces its history down a long line of distinguished ancestors. George Little, the founder of the Newbury family of that name, came from England to Newbury, Massachusetts, in 1640. His descendants in New England have been eminent in business and the professions, and noted in public life, both civil and military. Mr. Josiah Little of Amboy, a lineal descendant, was born in Auburn, Maine, September 10, 1832. He obtained his education at the Edward Little Institute, at Auburn, and at the age of sixteen went to work in a store in his native town. Three years after he went to southwest Missouri, and remaining there two years, in February, 1854, came to Illinois, and in April arrived in Amboy, when preparations were just beginning for a town. As soon as it was possible for him to do so he made himself the owner of lot 8, block 3, original plat, and erected the first permanent store in the place, and from that time sold drugs, medicines and hardware until he was burnt out in 1868. He then changed his business, and in January, 1869, opened a banking house, which he has conducted to this date. In the meantime he has besides had a considerable interest in farming, and is now the owner of 445 acres of well improved land, valued at \$13,000. Mr. Little has been town clerk and supervisor, and has held various minor offices. In 1861 he was elected treasurer of Lee county, and in 1863 reelected. Again in 1879 he was recalled to the same position. In November, 1859, he was united in marriage with Miss Mary Hussey, of Franklin Grove. They are the parents of five children, all living, as follows: Josiah, Nancy J., Mary Elizabeth, Edward Hussey, and Maria Warren. Mr. and Mrs. Little are members of the Congregational church, and he has been a Mason over twenty years.

EDMUND R. TRAVERS, physician and surgeon, Amboy, seventh child in a family of ten children by Richard H. and Harriet (Walsh) Tra-

vers, was born in the county of Cork, Ireland, March 7, 1832. His father was a shipowner, and carried on a business in coal, grain and live stock; besides this he kept a farm of 200 acres, which he had cultivated. In 1842 he emigrated to London, Canada, where he bought 200 acres of land and prepared a home for his family, who came the next year. His death occurring shortly after, the mother was left with the care and education of a large family, and notwithstanding she had some property it was not sufficient for the demands which she foresaw would accumulate, so she engaged in giving private lessons in English, French and music, until all her children that had not previously done so had completed their studies. Two of the older sons were physicians. John T. was a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of London, England, and Richard W. of the Edinburgh Medical College, Scotland, and also a graduate of Rolf's Medical School of Toronto, Canada; both these are now dead. The subject of this sketch began the study of medicine under the tutelage of his brothers when but sixteen years of age, and attended his first course of lectures at Rolf's Medical School. Having become delicate in health, in 1856 he sought improvement in a change of climate and travel and went south; but he did not relax his studies, and while in New Orleans attended a course of medical lectures by Dr. Stone. In 1858 he matriculated in the medical department of the University of Michigan, from which he was graduated in 1861. He then attended the General Hospital at Toronto, Canada, for one year, after which he immediately began practice with his brother John T., who was located at Port Huron, Michigan, opening an office in Port Sarnia, just opposite, in Canada. About this time his brother Charles H., who was a druggist in Port Huron, raised a company for the war, but the enrolled men not being accepted, he, along with other officers, were sent to Detroit, where they were regularly drilled and instructed. Returning again to Port Huron he enlisted in Co. E, 5th Mich. Inf., was elected captain, and with his command joined the army of the Potomac. He was mortally wounded at the battle of Fair Oaks. Dr. Travers was on the point of entering the Union service as a surgeon when a sudden and severe illness prostrated him and defeated his object. His sister, Mrs. Harriet Merrigold, a pious and very estimable lady, was living in Amboy, where she had resided almost from the beginning of the town; through her influence the doctor was induced to settle here, which he did in September 1863. Since that time he has made Amboy his home, and has practiced his profession with eminent success. He is surgeon for the north division of the Illinois Central railroad, and in a like capacity has charge of the Lee county farm and poor-house. He holds membership in both the Illinois State Medical Association and the American Medical Associa-



tion. On May 17, 1864, he was united in marriage with Miss Esther Scott, daughter of Thomas Scott, of Mendota. They have had four children: Martha, Edmund, George and Mary. The last only is living. In politics Dr. Travers is a democrat. He is a member of the Episcopal church, and holds the office of junior warden. Mrs. Travers, who was formerly a Presbyterian, is now a communicant in the Congregational church. The doctor belongs to the fraternities of Masons, Odd-Fellows and United Workmen.

WARREN H. BADGER, junior member of the firm of H. E. Badger & Son, Amboy, was born in Corning, New York, in 1847, and is the oldest child of Henry E. and Catherine (Clark) Badger. He received a good English education at Mount Morris and Evanston, and was bred to a mercantile life. He has been in partnership with his father since 1872, in milling and farming, and also in one of the leading grocery houses in Amboy. In 1874 he was married to Miss Emeline Green, of Elizabeth, Jo Daviess county, Illinois. She was born in 1851. Their three children are Henry H., Frances E. and Arthur. Mr. Badger is a Mason and a republican.

ISAAC EDWARDS, liveryman and ice dealer, Amboy, is a native of England, having been born there in 1828. In 1850 he arrived in America, and at once went to railroad building at Elgin, Illinois. This he followed five years. In 1853 he settled at Amboy, and graded seven miles of the Central railroad, under three contracts. Since 1855 he has been in the livery and ice business. In 1869 he again began taking contracts for railroad grading, and has also been engaged at that more or less every year till the present. His real estate comprises 580 acres of farming land, valued at \$14,500; and twenty city lots, sixteen buildings, worth \$10,000. Mr. Edwards is a republican, and has run three times for the office of county treasurer,—first in 1877, and twice in 1879. In the last year he ran as an independent and was elected over W. H. Bryant, the republican nominee. The board of supervisors questioned the sufficiency of Mr. Edwards' bond, though his bondsmen were several of the most wealthy farmers in Lee county; an on reference of the case to the state's attorney, he held that they could not accept a new bond after the first of December; and as they had assembled at the latest moment, no time remained for him to make a new one. A second election was ordered; Mr. Edwards and Josiah Little were the candidates, and the latter was elected. Mr. Edwards has been mayor of the city six years, township collector four terms, and is serving his sixth term as supervisor. He was married in 1853, to Miss Elizabeth Saul. Their living children are William John, John Henry, Isaac Frank, and Arthur. They have buried an infant, Albert, Elizabeth, and Sarah Jane.



RUFUS H. MELLEN, postmaster, Amboy, was born in Massachusetts, February 5, 1818. His Scotch ancestors came to New England in the early days of the Massachusetts colony, and were a people noted for their great physical strength. Mr. Mellen obtained his education at the Wilbraham Academy, in his own town of Greenwich. He taught music and district schools, and traveled in New Jersey, when a young man, in the same employments. In 1842 he was married to Miss Laura E. Patten, and four children are the fruits of this union, viz: Ella Frances, Walter Clayton, Florence Virginia, and May Georgiana. In October, 1854, Mr. Mellen came to Amboy and selected it for his future home; and the next spring brought his family, and went to manufacturing lumber. In 1861 he was commissioned postmaster of Amboy, and has occupied the office until the present time. He began concurrently selling books and papers, and in 1864 took his son Walter into partnership. They have since added to their trade musical instruments and sewing machines. Mr. Mellen has been a member of the Congregational church since he was fifteen years old. He has been city clerk and alderman, and is a republican. Originally a whig, he cast his first vote for Harrison in 1840.

Among the leading business men of Amboy is LEMUEL BOURNE, who was born in Sandwich, Massachusetts, in 1830, and was the son of Benjamin and Lucinda Bourne. His remotest ancestor in this country was Richard Bourne, who landed at Sandwich, from England, in 1620, and was a prominent man in the early history of the Massachusetts colony. Our subject was educated in the academies at Westbrook and Norway, Maine, and has been keeping books and merchandising from that time to the present. In the spring of 1854 he emigrated to the west, and the following winter came to Amboy as freight and station agent, and filled this position eight years; he then embarked in the drug and grocery trade in partnership with J. S. Briggs; at the end of three years he retired and bought out Mr. Somes, and until 1872 was in company with B. R. Hawks in a general store. Since that date he has been without a partner. Mr. Bourne keeps a complete assortment of goods on East avenue, and is very favorably known throughout the country. In 1860 he celebrated his marriage with Miss Anna M. Smith, and by her has had five children: Anna L., Frank S., Frederick C., Alice A. and Helen A. His family are communicants in the Protestant Episcopal church, and he worships there, but is not a member. He has held the office of Alderman, and is a republican.

EVERETT E. CHASE, magistrate, Amboy, was born in Pawtucket (then Massachusetts, now Rhode Island), September 27, 1840, and is descended in a direct line from the Puritans. It was the intention of his parents to breed him to the law, but he objected with such persist-

ence that the design was abandoned. He left home at sixteen, and in the spring of 1857 came to Amboy, where his brother, Newton S. Chase, was in business. He was deputy postmaster a short time under Sidney Reed; then he clerked for his brother, and next about a year for Alonzo Kinyon. In the spring of 1861 he was appointed deputy postmaster by R. H. Mellen, and filled this place till the spring of 1864, when he became a partner with Mr. Mellen in the book and stationery business. In the autumn of the same year he sold out to his partner, and enlisted in Co. H, 11th Ill. Vols., and joined his regiment at Memphis. He served his time on detail doing clerical work, but aided in the taking of Spanish Fort, Fort Blakely, and Mobile city. He went with his command from there to Baton Rouge, and thence up Red River, when Gen. Canby received the surrender of Gen. Kirby Smith and his forces. Mr. Chase was mustered out at New Orleans in November 1865. In 1867 he married Miss Mary Jacobs, daughter of John C. Jacobs; and next year went to work for the Central Railroad Company in the superintendent's office, and remained there till 1875. He has been city clerk twelve years, and in 1877 was elected justice of the peace, and reëlected in 1881. He was a delegate to the state republican convention at Springfield in 1880. His first wife died in 1868, and in 1875 he married Mrs. Grace Wells, widow of Capt. M. W. Wells.

JOSEPH B. GRAVES, dealer in agricultural implements, carriages and wagons, Amboy, son of William and Sarah M. (Foster) Graves, was born in Broome county, New York, in 1838. His father having died two years before, in September 1852 his mother moved with her family to Illinois, and lived one year in Kendall county; then they came to Lee and settled in China township. Mr. Graves was married in 1862 to Miss Mary E. Eastwood, and two children have been born to them, William F. and Cora May. In the fall of 1868 he quit farming and located in Amboy in his present business, in company with Joseph Hines. In 1876 he bought out his partner's interest. His wareroom, a pleasant and commodious one, stands on the corner of Main street and Adams avenue. He owns a farm of 80 acres in Nachusa township, worth \$3,000. He is a Mason, an Odd-Fellow, a workman, a democrat, an alderman, and a member of the board of education of Amboy.

DWIGHT W. SLAUTER, lumber and coal dealer, Amboy, only son of Ambrose E. and Louisa (Bristol) Slauter, was born in Berkshire county, Massachusetts, October 28, 1841. In the spring of 1855 his father emigrated with his family to Amboy, and here our subject got his schooling, and learned the cabinet trade with J. D. Weddell. After the death of the latter he worked for C. D. Vaughan two or three years, and then for the railroad company in the wood department of the machine shop seven years. In 1870 he quit this employment and united

with J. H. Ives, under the firm name of Ives & Slauter, and purchased the business of Merigold & Arnold, lumber merchants. They rented the old stand from their predecessors five years, and then bought the Marston property adjoining, and added grain and coal to their business. They have since leased the grain department. Mr. Slauter was married in 1864 to Miss Ella F., daughter of R. H. Mellen, who was born May 6, 1845. Both are members of the Congregational church. Mr. Slauter is a republican. He has traveled some for pleasure and improvement, and has applied himself to his business with industry, and his start in life is due to his own exertions.

CURTIS M. BUTLER, lumber merchant, Amboy, was born October 14, 1817, in Brockville, Canada, while his parents had gone there temporarily from their home in Jefferson county, New York. He was reared a farmer, and in 1836 he emigrated to St. Clair county, Michigan, where he bought a piece of government land in the dense woods and cleared and improved a small farm. In 1838 his father, Abijah Butler, who was born February 25, 1793, joined him with his family, and on the 2d of April, 1842, was stricken down and died. His mother, Clarissa Dowd before marriage, whose birth was on the 8th of November, 1792, lived until July 5, 1845. In 1843 Mr. Butler removed to Oswego, Kendall county, Illinois, and continued to live by farming. In 1855 he set up in the lumber trade in that town, and the next year changed his place of business and residence to Amboy, coming here without means. He has followed this with success ever since, and now owns two farms of eighty acres each, valued at \$6,000. Mr. Butler was married in 1853 to Miss Sarah M. Atwater, daughter of David and Mary (McKenzie) Atwater, who was born July 6, 1825, and reared in Broome county, New York. They have had three children; Frederick H., Della (dead), and Blanche. Mrs. Butler's ancestry were English and Scotch; the latter was on the maternal side. Her grandfather Atwater went from Hebron, Washington county, New York, as a volunteer, and fought at the battle of Bennington. Her grandfather McKenzie was an officer in the French and Indian war. He was sent out on a scout and never returned. Mr. Butler is a republican in politics, and he and his wife have been members of the First Congregational church of Amboy about fifteen years. He has been mayor of the city three terms.

WILLIAM B. STUART, attorney, Amboy, was born in Ireland in 1806, and emigrated with his parents to America in 1812, and settled in Canandaigua, Ontario county, New York. His father volunteered at once in the 15th New York regiment, served through the war, and was engaged in several actions. When Mr. Stuart had grown to manhood his father gave him a saw-mill and 200 acres of land in



Canada, and in 1833 he went there to live, and was married to Miss Mary Johnson. In the patriot war, 1836-8, Mr. Stuart participated with all the enthusiasm of his Irish nature. He commanded a company of lancers at the battle of Short Hills, December 19, 1836, had his horse killed under him, and was wounded in the ankle. Two weeks afterward he was captured at Gravelly Bay and confined with John Van Norman, who had been taken prisoner at Checkered Sheds. On the 17th of March they managed to escape, but the latter was retaken, to undergo the toils and anxieties of a second escape, when he rejoined Mr. Stuart at Buffalo. They then came together to Illinois, Van Norman direct to Dixon, while his partner remained in Chicago until autumn, when he came to Lee county also, and made a claim at Franklin Grove. Mr. Stuart lived at this place and at Dixon nine years, engaged in all kinds of business, and practicing law somewhat. He opened at the county seat the first meat market in Lee county. He furnished \$1,000 capital, and a man named Gaylord attended to the business. He was soon in the condition of the Dutchman who supplied money in partnership with a Yankee who furnished experience—at the end of a year Gaylord had gone with the money, and Stuart had the experience. In 1847 he moved to Rocky Ford and improved four farms in May township. The next year he built the first frame house, and about twenty-five years ago the first brick house, in the township. At one time he carried on a large speculation in land. He was the first supervisor in May township, and held that office several years. He was commissioned justice of the peace first by Governor Ford, and has been an incumbent of the position continuously to this date. He commenced doing business in real estate and practicing law in Amboy as soon as the place was started. In 1854 his family came to town to live, but after some time they resided quite as much on the farm in May township as here. Mr. Stuart has suffered heavy losses six times from fire. His first wife died in 1875, and was the mother of fourteen children, as follows: Hamilton W., Francelia A., Marietta, Eliza Jane, a young lady of education and rare beauty, who was thrown from a horse and received mortal injuries; William H., James H., John B., Francis M., Charles F., Melissa (dead), Ida E., Emma J., and two which died in infancy. William and James were soldiers in the 75th Ill. reg. and fought at Perryville and Crab Orchard, and elsewhere. In 1879 Mr. Stuart was married to Lydia A., widow of Jesse G. Baker. In 1829 his parents, James and Ann (Markey) Stuart, emigrated to Almont, Lapeer county, Michigan, where they lived many years and died, the former at the age of eighty-four.

ANDREW W. SPAFARD, book-keeper and cashier for the Illinois Central Railroad Company at Amboy, was born in Livingston county, New



York, June 23, 1827. His parents were Thomas L. and Almira (Baldwin) Spafard. In 1838 the family removed to Washtenaw county, Michigan, where his father is still living. Until 1855 Mr. Spafard was most of the time engaged in farming; at that time he moved to Chicago, and in March following to Amboy, where he was book-keeper in the master mechanic's office. In May, 1858, he returned to Chicago, and was employed in an agricultural warehouse, and in February, 1860, he moved back to Amboy and has since resided in this place, and occupied his present position in the office of the superintendent of the north division of the Central railroad. He was married in 1850, to Miss Lucinda Z. Chipman, of Lima, Washtenaw county, Michigan. She was born December 28, 1828. They have one son, Frank S., ticket agent and operator at Warren, Illinois. Mr. and Mrs. Spafard are members of the Congregational church at Amboy. He has been a Mason about a year, and belongs to the American Legion of Honor. He is a stalwart republican.

EPHRAIM A. WILCOX, deceased, was born in Fredonia, Chautauqua county, New York, in 1811. He removed to Lucas county, Ohio, and engaged in mercantile pursuits, and during his residence there was married, in 1836, to Miss Sabra E. Arnold. In 1838 he settled at the place known as Freedom, in La Salle county, this state. Here he became converted, and was baptized into the fellowship of the Baptist church of Harding. In 1854 he removed to Amboy, and formed a partnership with A. H. Wooster, and was numbered with the earliest business men of the place. He at once took rank as an upright, high-minded and public-spirited citizen, and when the town was incorporated he became president of the first board of trustees. Mrs. Wilcox, who had been a communicant in the Baptist church since she was fourteen years of age, united with her husband and assisted with much zeal in the organization of the Baptist church of Amboy, and were enrolled among its constituent members. Mr. Wilcox was elected deacon, and he adorned this responsible office to the close of his life. He was always a liberal contributor to the support of the gospel: a man of quiet manners, meek though social disposition, and his home was the abode of peace and hospitality, and a pleasant retreat for his christian brethren. He died November 2, 1878, greatly respected, and was buried in Prairie Repose cemetery. The Rev. Thomas Powell, of Ottawa, a close personal friend, preached his funeral discourse from Thessalonians iv, 13, 14. Mrs. Wilcox was an exemplary christian lady, honored and beloved by an extended circle of friends. She went to rest on March 19, 1878, aged sixty-one years. The Rev. Powell preached her sermon from Job xiv, 14.

JOHN GUNNING, painter, Amboy, was born in New Jersey in 1833.

His father died before his recollection, and he found his way to Massachusetts, where he worked in a cotton factory, and when older on shoes. In the spring of 1853 he came west, and got employment from the Central Railroad Company as a painter, and has been in their service all the time since except one year, when he was in the Orient House with his father-in-law. In 1860 he began and has since continued to work in the Company's shops in Amboy. On May 15, 1854, he was married in Chicago to Miss Amanda Skinner, daughter of John L. Skinner, who was born September 1, 1835, at North Bridgewater, Massachusetts. Mr. Skinner arrived here in the autumn of 1852, being employed at the time on the railroad. He was one of the first men to make a beginning in the new town, and bought two lots—the first sold—on the corner of Main street and East avenue, where he erected the Orient House, the only hotel, except the Passenger House, ever built in the city. At the outbreak of the war he opened the first enrolling office in Amboy. He was one of the foremost men for several years, and died of paralysis May 9, 1875, at the age of sixty-six years. Mr. and Mrs. Gunning have been the parents of four children: Louisa A., Elrena L. (deceased), Carrie E. and George M. Mrs. Gunning belongs to the Episcopal church, and Mr. Gunning is a vestryman. He has been alderman five years, and is a democrat.

WILLIAM HENRY MCGRAW, locomotive engineer, Amboy, settled in this city in the fall of 1856, and has been in the employ of the Central Railroad Company continuously since. He began by firing two years, then worked in the shop and switched in the yard until July 5, 1859, when he took an engine and ran a freight train five years; from that time till now he has had a passenger. Mr. McGraw was married to Miss Jane Mooney, February 15, 1863. Mrs. McGraw was born in the county of Wexford, Ireland, October 28, 1842, and emigrated to this country in 1859. The first year she lived in McLean county, Illinois, and then came to Amboy. Mr. McGraw was born in Schoharie county, New York, of John W. and Jane (Chilson) McGraw, April 19, 1831. He served an apprenticeship to the miller's trade, but did not work at it afterward. In 1850 he came west to view the country, and the next spring returned to Albany and worked till fall on the Hudson river, when he came again to Illinois and commenced as brakeman on the Chicago and Galena Union railroad, the first built west from Chicago. His run was from that city to Rockford, to which the road had only been extended. In June, 1852, he changed to the Illinois & Michigan canal and remained until some time the following year as captain of a boat. From this time to the autumn of 1856, when he came to Amboy, he was a mate on an Illinois river steamer.

IRA S. SMITH, butcher, Amboy, was the eighth child and third son

of Clement and Lucy (Farnham) Smith, and was born in Grafton county, New Hampshire, in 1829. He had four brothers and six sisters, all born, like himself, at Enfield. His parents were natives of the same state. Clement Smith was born at Bridgewater, March 23, 1794, and Lucy Farnham at Enfield, April 20, the same year. The parents of the latter were Jonathan Farnham and Hannah Choate, who were born respectively at Newburyport in 1758, and in East Enfield about the same time. The celebrated advocate, Rufus Choate, belonged to this family. Mr. Smith's grandparents on both sides lived to be over ninety years old. His father emigrated from near Portsmouth, when a young man, to Enfield. The country in northern New Hampshire was at this time very wild. He served on the northern frontier in the war of 1812. Our subject at the age of eighteen left home for Boston, where he was clerk in a store four years. In 1851 he made a trip to California, remaining only one year, and then returning to Boston. In November, 1852, he came to Springfield, Illinois, and on April 19, 1853, was married to Miss Lizzie Pearl. She was born February 8, 1831, and was the youngest child in a family of four sons and three daughters, all born at Porter, Oxford county, Maine. Mrs. Smith's parents were Benjamin and Susan (Otis) Pearl. The former was born at Porter, and served in the war of 1812, and the latter was born at Gilmanston, New Hampshire, March 1, 1793. When Mr. Smith settled in Springfield he began railroading on the Great Western. On December 21, 1854, the engine "New England," which he was firing, exploded, killing the engineer and throwing him 200 feet, breaking his shoulder and several ribs, and scalding and dangerously injuring him. He was several months recovering, and it was two years before he regained the full use of his body. In 1857 he removed to Lee county, Iowa, and bought land and farmed. When the county adopted township organization he was the first supervisor in his township of Lee, which had formerly, as a precinct, been called Badger. In 1863 he moved to Bureau county, Illinois, and the next year to Amboy. Here he worked ten years for the Central company on engine repairs, and in 1874 started in the butchering business. He has been collector, alderman and school director, and is a Mason and republican. Mr. and Mrs. Smith have two sons, Winslow and Edgar O., born respectively August 31, 1855, and August 31, 1861.

HENRY T. FORD, employé, Amboy, son of Lebbeus and Bathsheba (Thorp) Ford, was born in Berkshire county, Massachusetts, June 14, 1821. His grandfather, John Ford, did veteran service in the revolution, and died about 1845 at the age of ninety-two. Mr. Ford arrived in Amboy April 2, 1866, and the next March he began work for the Central company as clerk in charge of the oil department, and is still in that



ISAAC EDWARDS.





position. He was married January 12, 1842, to Miss Sylvia M. Crampton, of West Stockbridge, Massachusetts. Her birth was on the 12th of January 1822. They have had five children, as follows: Marian P., born June 3, 1843, married to John E. Pettibone, of Chicago, January 1, 1863; Mary E., born April 12, 1845, married to John Trainer June 4, 1867; Myron H., born March 21, 1847; Charles L., born May 28, 1849, died October 29, 1879; John Wallace, born December 15, 1859, died in infancy. In Massachusetts Mr. Ford was selectman six terms; in Amboy he has been a member of the board of education two years, and is a trustee of Prairie Repose Cemetery. Politically he is a republican. Both he and Mrs. Ford are members of the Congregational church, and he is a trustee.

CHARLES TAIT, machinist, and foreman of engine house, Amboy, was born July 7, 1830, in the county of Northumberland, England. He was a son of John and Mary (Gibson) Tait. About 1850 he commenced to learn the machinist's trade, and the next year came to America and went to work at Paterson, New Jersey. In 1852 he came to Cleveland and finished his trade, remaining till 1857. On the application of the Central company he came to Amboy in the fall of that year. In 1866 he was promoted to foreman of the engine house. He was married May 5, 1858, to Mrs. Mary (Hatton), widow of Joseph Garner. The following are their six children: Hannah, now Mrs. William McKinzie; Charles W., James H., Alice M., Joseph W. and Ida G. Mrs. Tait belongs to the Congregational church, and he is a republican, a Mason, and a workman. He owns 120 acres of land at Clear Lake, Iowa.

CHARLES H. MARSTON, locomotive engineer, Amboy, was born in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, June 27, 1820. In 1825 his mother, Lydia (Staples), died, and his father married again, and in 1830 himself died. Four years later young Marston went to sea: during two seasons he was steamboating on the coasts of Maine, New Hampshire and Massachusetts, and at other times making voyages to the West Indies, to Europe and to the Mediterranean. His seafaring life lasted five years, and at the age of nineteen he set himself to learn the machinist's trade. Beginning at Portsmouth he worked two years with Jefferson McIntyre, who gave up business at the end of that time. In 1844 he went to Boston and finished with Hinckly & Drury, engine builders, for whom he worked a year and a half. Next he was employed by Jabez Coney, of south Boston, and helped build two engines. He left there in the early summer of 1847 and went to Springfield, remaining till the latter part of 1848 as gang-boss in the engine works at that place, where he superintended the putting up of seven or eight more locomotives. He now went to Cleveland, Ohio, with an engine and six car-

loads of machinery for the same parties, from the Springfield Car and Engine Works, to start car shops there, and took employment from Harback, Stone & Witt. In April, 1854, he changed his location to Chicago, and began work for the Central Railroad Company, and continued with them until 1857, first on the branch as engineer and then on the main line, making Amboy his home after November 1854. He subsequently ran on the Racine & Mississippi railroad, the Mississippi Central, the Chicago, Alton & St. Louis, and the Great Western. On May 17, 1864, he started overland to California, but reaching Salt Lake sold his outfit, and after remaining three months departed January 7, 1865, for Arizona, where he arrived in March after a hard journey of fifty-four days on horseback, in the dead of winter, not having taken a meal nor slept but once in a human habitation. In a few months he started home, and at Jacob's well was plundered by the Indians, and lost both his horses. He arrived in the fall, and from then until 1869 was again working for the Central company in the machine shop. He then went to Bryant, on the Union Pacific, as division master mechanic, and early in 1871 came home and ran the first construction train on the Chicago & Rock River road, and after that a passenger. He was on this road little more than a year. In 1876 he removed a grist-mill which he had bought at Compton and set it up in Amboy, and ran it till 1879. In the fall of that year he returned to the Union Pacific and worked another year. About 1858 he erected two business houses in the city, and at other times two residences. He was married February 2, 1852, to Miss Jane Van Noate, of Bricksville, Ohio. They have three sons: Lannes, Frank, and Alpha. Mr. Marston is a Royal Arch Mason.

HENRY S. WYMAN, locomotive engineer, Amboy, third son of Col. John B. Wyman, was born in New Haven, Connecticut, June 12, 1852. Soon after his birth his parents removed to Chicago, where they resided about a year before settling in Amboy, in which place Mr. Wyman lived until he was eleven years old. From that time until he was sixteen he was at Shewsbury and Worcester, Massachusetts, attending school. He returned to Illinois and was in Bloomington three years learning the miller's trade; but as this business did not agree with his health, in 1871 he obtained employment from the Central Railroad Company, and has been in their service since as brakeman, fireman, baggageman, and engineer. He was married February 3, 1876, to Miss Lillian Daniels. They have one child, Henry Westcott. Mrs. Wyman was born at Shippingsport, La Salle county, July 26, 1854. She is a member of the Episcopal church, and Mr. Wyman is a vestryman. He is also a republican and a workman.

CHARLES C. STONE, junior proprietor of the drain tile and brick

works at Amboy, was born in Medina county, Ohio, June 19, 1843. His parents were Levi H. and Laurana E. (Parsons) Stone. He was bereft of his father when he was seven years old, and he suffered from feeble health during his early life. In 1854 his widowed mother removed with her family to Findlay, Ohio, and here Mr. Stone obtained his education in the graded schools. In the winter of 1861-2 he began the study of telegraphy, but made no use of it after acquiring it; the next autumn he went to clerking for his uncle in a retail dry-goods store; and in the fall of 1864 he started as commercial traveler for a New York wholesale dry-goods house, and was in this business four years. In November, 1868, he settled in Clinton, Illinois, in the printing business, in company with his brother-in-law, W. L. Glessner. They purchased the "Clinton Register" and published it together five years. In 1873 Mr. Stone sold to his partner and accepted the position of station agent at Clinton, on the Indianapolis, Bloomington & Western railroad. He held this till March 1, 1881, and then resigned to give his personal attention to the manufacture of tile and brick at Amboy, and the erection of the necessary works preparatory to undertaking the business. The year before he had formed a partnership with Mr. John Wightwick, of Clinton, who is the senior member of the firm. Mr. Stone was married February 8, 1876, to Miss Emily J. Smith, who was born in London, England, December 6, 1853. They have two children, Winnie and Nellie. Mrs. Stone belongs to the Methodist church.

WILLIAM B. ANDRUSS, merchant, Amboy, was born in the township of Jerusalem, county of Yates and State of New York, February 23, 1824, and is a son of Henry G. and Pamela (Weed) Andruss. As the genealogical history of the family shows, he is the eighth generation from John Andrews (termed the settler) who with a brother settled in Farmington, Connecticut, in 1640, from England. Mr. Andruss, the subject of this sketch, was raised a farmer, received an academic education at Franklin Academy, Prattsburgh, Steuben county, New York, taught school a number of terms while a young man. He married Miss Dolly Bell, of Gorham, Ontario county, New York, daughter of Thomas and Sophia Bell, October 6, 1846, and resided for one year in Pittsford, Monroe county, New York, where their only child, Virgil B. Andruss, was born, July 21, 1847. He then returned to his native town, where he remained until 1855, when he came west, finally settling in Amboy, Illinois, in February 1856, where he has since resided. He found a somewhat divided village, considerable strife existing as to whether the main town should be on the east or west side of the railroad. His first location was in what was called Exchange block on the west side. His health had failed him, and Mrs. Andruss opened daguerreotype and photographic rooms. They remained in that locality



about two years, when they came to the east side, and occupied rooms near the corner of Main street and Adams avenue. Mr. Andruss' health gradually improved, and he was elected township collector for four successive years, and town clerk for two years. In 1862 he was elected justice of the peace, and with the exception of about two years has held the office since to May 1, 1881. He was alderman for the second ward eight years. He was county surveyor for the years 1863-4. He was appointed notary public by Gov. Bissell in 1858 or 1859, and has been continued such since, his last commission received in 1880. In 1866 he engaged in the hardware and farming implement trade as partner with C. J. Blackstone. This continued to 1868, when he purchased his partner's interest, and he, in connection with his son Virgil B. Andruss, has continued the business to the present time, for some years in the firm name of W. B. Andruss & Son. Virgil B. Andruss enlisted in Co. D, 134th Ill. Vols., at its organization in Chicago, and remained with the company until the regiment was mustered out of the service. Mr. Andruss has been a member of the Presbyterian or Congregational church since 1842; he and Mrs. Andruss have been members of the Congregational church of Amboy since January 1857, and he a deacon thereof since February 1857; their son, a member since May 1863. Mr. Andruss has always advocated the temperance reform, having been identified with almost all societies organized to carry forward the work, but more prominently with the Sons of Temperance, having first united with that order in 1845, and now being a representative in the National Division of North America. In politics he has been a republican since the organization of that party.

SIMON BADGER, deceased, brother to H. E. and Chester Badger, was born in Broome county, New York, June 11, 1820. In 1838 he came west with his father, who was a millwright, and worked with him at that trade until 1841. He then turned his attention to farming, and in 1848, in company with his brother Warren, erected the Badger grist-mill at Binghamton, the first of consequence in the county. His interest in this property continued until 1860. In 1850 he went overland to California, accompanied by his brother Chester, and remained there nearly a year. His wife, whose maiden name was Emily McKune, and to whom he had been married about two years, died in his absence, on July 5, 1850. Tidings of his loss decided him to return at once, and he arrived home late in the autumn. By this marriage was one child, now Mrs. Joanna Morgan. Mr. Badger married again, taking for his second wife Miss Roxy M. Wasson, daughter of Lorenzo Wasson, sr., with whom he lived in great happiness until her death, May 26, 1863. Mr. Badger was a man actively engaged in business during his life, and enjoyed a high degree of confidence and respect from a

large circle of friends. He filled various township offices, and for sixteen years was justice of the peace, and was discharging the functions of that office at the date of his death. He was a sufferer several years from diabetes, from which disease he died July 28, 1876. In his death the community sustained the loss of an upright, public-spirited citizen. By his last marriage three children were born: Rush, September 7, 1855; Stella, September 4, 1857; and Claribel, April 25, 1859. Rush received a common school education, and supplemented it with a commercial course at Bryant & Stratton's college at Davenport, Iowa, in the winter of 1875-6. In the summer of 1879 he traveled four months in England, Ireland, Scotland, France, Germany and Switzerland.

OSCAR A. COMSTOCK, locomotive engineer, Amboy, eldest son of Alfred and Harriet (Westbrook) Comstock, was born August 15, 1837, in St. Clair county, Michigan, to which his parents had removed from Oneida county, New York, at its first settlement about 1830. Here his father farmed on a small scale, but owning a saw-mill and timber, he made lumber manufacturing his principal business. In 1849 Mr. Comstock went on the lakes as a cook on board a vessel, and after that as a common sailor, returning home winters to work in the pineries. He kept this up till the fall of 1860, and then located in Amboy in the employ of the Central company as locomotive fireman. In August, 1862, he volunteered in Co. I, 89th Ill. Inf. (railroad regiment), Capt. Samuel Comstock, a cousin, being his commanding officer. He fought at Stone River, Liberty Gap, Chickamauga, Mission Ridge, Strawberry Plains, Rocky Face Ridge, Resaca, Dallas, Kenesaw Mountain, and Peach Tree Creek, and followed Hood back to Tennessee and fought at Franklin and Nashville. He was promoted to sergeant, and at Mission Ridge was wounded by a bullet which broke his arm. In May, 1865, he was mustered out at Chicago, and immediately returned to Amboy and went to work again for the railroad company. In 1867 he was promoted to locomotive engineer. His marriage with Miss Anna Hill was on March 31, 1866. Her parents were English, and emigrated to New Orleans, where she was born March 17, 1848. The next year they came north, her mother dying on the passage, and her father settled at Galena, and followed lead mining. She is a member of the Baptist church, and Mr. Comstock is a republican, and belongs to division No. 72, Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers.

ANDREW J. POLAND, train master Illinois Central railroad, Amboy, son of Benjamin F. and Lucy S. (Sanborn) Poland, was born August 12, 1832, in Standish, Maine, and was reared at Gloucester. His father was a captain in the last war with Great Britain. Mr. Poland went to Boston in 1850, and to Chicago in 1854. He ran on the Central branch from May till September, and from this date till January,

1855, was running between Chicago and Galena, still in the employ of the Central company. He then was located at Amboy until 1859, when he removed to Chicago and ran between that city and St. Louis over the Chicago & Alton railroad sixteen months. In 1861 he returned to Amboy and remained here till January 1866, being train master at this time, and his family residing at Centralia. He was next stationed at Decatur until 1873, when he came back to Amboy, where he now resides. He was married in 1857, to Miss Caroline Potter, of Chicago, who died February 8, 1879, and by whom he had five children, as follows: Edward W., Lucy (dead), Lizzie J., Carrie S., and Helen.

PHILIP FLACK, barber, Amboy, is a native of Oberhoechstadt, near Frankfort-on-the-Main, Germany, where he was born May 14, 1837. He emigrated to America, arriving at Castle Garden, New York, October 1, 1853. After eight months he went to Virginia, in September, 1855, he came to Mendota, and in January, 1856, permanently located in Amboy, and was the first white barber who followed his vocation in the town. He lost his business property, in which his family was living at the time, by fire, on December 10, 1863. This conflagration destroyed all of East avenue except Edwards' livery stable, at the north end of the row, and Carson & Pirie's brick building, where Bourne's now stands. He was married February 15, 1858, to Miss Margaret Hauck, by whom he has had the following children: Francis Albert, Marion, Philip Andrew (deceased), Josephine Barbara, and Clara Amelia. Mr. Flack and his family are Catholics.

GEORGE H. McFATRICH, car-builder and assistant foreman of the car-shop, Amboy, is a native of Mercer county, Pennsylvania, where he was born March 31, 1819. He was the second son and fourth child of Hugh and Margaret (Bennett) McFatrigh. He spent his early boyhood on a farm, received a good English education, and learned the cabinet trade. In 1842 he settled at Hazel Green, Grant county, Wisconsin, where he lived by his trade, and was married to Miss Fannie Lindsay. In 1854 he moved to Rockford, Illinois, and sold drugs with his brother James a year, and in April, 1855, came to Amboy and has since had his home in this place. He built on the site of Wheat & Gridley's store one of the first business houses in Amboy. In the fall he began work for the Central Railroad Company, in the car-shop, and has continued ever since in their employ, a period of twenty-six years. During the last sixteen years he has been assistant foreman. The only office he ever held was that of collector, the last year he lived in Wisconsin. Mr. and Mrs. McFatrigh were formerly Presbyterians, but on coming here they found no church of their denomination, and so joined the Methodist, of which they had been members until two years ago. The latter is now a Congregationalist. Mr. McFatrigh was an elder in



the Presbyterian church. In politics he was originally a whig, but became a republican on the formation of that party. They have had five children: Sarah Melissa, wife of David I. Finch, of Peoria; Fannie, now Mrs. Louis Santee, of Des Moines, Iowa, but formerly of Brooklyn, New York; Hadessa (deceased), and Ella and Emma, twins (deceased).

CHARLES W. BELL, constable, Amboy, was born in New York in 1826. In 1840 he emigrated with his parents, Royal and Amanda (Judd) Bell, from Chantauqua county to Kendall county, Illinois. In 1852 he came here with his brother-in-law, Levi Chapman, of the firm of Chapman & Roberts, contractors, and worked for them at grading on the railroad till August 1853. He then brought his family to the present site of the city, and engaged in boarding railroad men, and at the same time doing a teaming business for the company in hauling stone from Grand Detour, and other building material from Mendota. For several years after he did contract work about the town. In 1858 or 1859 he was elected city marshal, and held the office seventeen or eighteen years, and was also most of the same time constable and deputy sheriff. In 1850 he was married to Miss Adeline Butler. They have had four children, as follows: Clara, now Mrs. John Shear; Medora, died February 5, 1869, aged fourteen years, six months and nine days; Jessie, died February 15, 1869, aged ten years, ten months and seven days; and Lillie, died February 3, 1869, aged seven years, eleven months and twenty-four days. These were carried off by scarlet fever. Mr. Bell is an Odd-Fellow. Mrs. Bell is a member of the Baptist church, and both belong to the Sons of Temperance.

GEORGE W. FREEMAN, train master Illinois Central railroad, Amboy, son of Chauncey and Harriet (Johnson) Freeman, was born in Clarkson, New York, in 1834, and reared on his father's farm and educated in his native town. In 1852, when but eighteen years of age, he came west and went to work on the Wabash railroad between Decatur and Springfield, and in the autumn of 1853 he went to Knox county, Illinois, where he was employed until the following March. At this time he entered the service of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad Company as brakeman, and after six months was advanced to a regular train, and so continued in the employment of the company until April 1861. Immediately on the call of the president for troops he volunteered for three months in Co. E, 17th Ill. Inf., and was appointed sergeant. After serving his time he returned home and recruited Co. C, 11th Ill. Cav., Col. Robert G. Ingersoll, principally about Galesburg. He was commissioned captain of this company and went into the service, but was stricken with rheumatism and obliged to resign, which he did in March 1862. He recovered sufficiently to



go to work again in the summer following, and engaged with the Illinois Central company, in whose service he has been until the present date. He was freight conductor nine years, and passenger conductor the remainder of the time, until he was transferred in the spring of 1881 to the train master's office in Amboy. Mr. Freeman was married January 13, 1858, to Miss Caroline Dailey, daughter of Edward Dailey, of Galesburg. Edward and Frederick are their two sons. Mrs. Freeman is a Congregationalist, and he is a Knight Templar and a republican.

JOSEPH E. LEWIS, attorney-at-law, Amboy, the youngest child of Joseph Lewis, was born in Amboy township, December 21, 1847. His father was born in Susquehanna county, Pennsylvania, in 1807, and his mother, whose maiden name was Rachel Cargill, in Cheshire county, New Hampshire, in 1806, and both are now living in Binghamton. In 1845 they emigrated from Pennsylvania to this township with five children, all of whom are now dead, as follows: Gaylord J., who left here March 29, 1852, at the age of nineteen, for California, and was never heard from after he had been there three years; James C., who volunteered in Co. I, 89th Ill. Vols., was wounded in the knee at Buzzard Roost, Georgia, May 9, 1864, died at Chattanooga July 23; John, who enlisted in Co. G, 39th Ill. Vols. (Yates' Phalanx), August 20, 1861, served on the Peninsula under McClellan, and in the Shenandoah under Shields, discharged in January 1863, came home to Amboy and died of disease contracted in the service, November 29, 1864; Andrew J., who enlisted in Co. G, (Yates' Phalanx), August 2, 1861, died at Foley Island, Charleston harbor, of typhoid fever, July 4, 1863; and Electa Jane, who died in infancy the first year of their residence here. These parents have given much to their country. Both have been members of the Methodist church since 1824, and Mr. Lewis has always held official connection as steward, trustee, or class leader, and sometimes has filled all three of these positions at once. The subject of this sketch did not walk on pavements of gold, nor lie upon beds of roses. He obtained a good education by putting two years of schooling at Mount Morris Seminary, with much hard private study at irregular intervals, making his way as best he could by teaching school. He used to keep up with his classes and go to school but one-third of the time. In 1870 he began the study of law in the office of Norman Ryan, but it was necessarily desultory, and several years elapsed before he was admitted. In 1871 he was married to Miss Melissa Hayes; and from 1872 to 1875 he had charge of the Rockton public schools of Winnebago county as principal. He is a republican and takes an active part in politics. His children have been as follows: Stella (dead), Ada, Benjamin B., Paul, and Ethel.

CHARLES W. DEMING, grocer, Amboy, is a native of Steuben county, New York, where he was born May 1, 1817. His parents were Charles S. and Elizabeth (Corbett) Deming, by whom he was reared a farmer until the age of fifteen, when he was put to mercantile employment. He was married September 24, 1840, to Miss Sabrina Chamberlain, who was born September 1, 1823. Their family of seven children are all living: Louisa S., now Mrs. Jacob L. Holmes; Charles Gaylord; Ann E., wife of Isaac E. Holmes; Jason L.; Helen A., now Mrs. Nathaniel Burnham; Carrie, and Olin E. Mr. Deming came west in April 1855, and settled at Linden, Whiteside county, where he farmed until he came to Amboy in 1864. Since that time, except one year, he has been in business. He is an influential member of the Methodist church, to which he has belonged since 1838. Mrs. Deming has been a communicant in the same church since 1840. He has filled the offices of steward, trustee, class leader, and Sabbath-school superintendent. His connection with the Sons of Temperance dates from 1844, and he is now the oldest member in the state, and is invested with the dignity of grand worthy associate of the Grand Division of Illinois. Mr. Deming is a republican. His brothers, Asaph C. and George A., died of disease in the army; the former at Nashville, Tennessee, and the latter at Grand Gulf, Mississippi.

JARED SLAUTER, railroad yardmaster, Amboy, son of Sylvanus F. and Lurena (French) Slaughter, was born in West Stockbridge, Massachusetts, in 1824. His grandfather Slaughter was a veteran of the revolution who fought in several battles. Mr. Slaughter was bred to farming, and followed that occupation until he removed to Amboy, arriving here April 15, 1856. He was married March 30, 1847, to Miss Adeline Lord, who died in 1849, leaving one child, Maria Adelaide, who also died, aged nineteen. His second marriage was on November 28, 1849, to Miss Caroline Bradley, whose death occurred May 10, 1861. She was the mother of two children, Lurena and Frank F. On April 6, 1862, he celebrated his third marriage with Catherine (Smith), widow of Addison Smith, and by this union has one child, George W. Mr. Slaughter has worked for the Central Company since his settlement here, and during the period of over twenty-five years has not lost more than two months' time. He was employed on the track for a few months at first, next was switchman three years, and in 1859 became yardmaster, and has held this position since. He is a republican in politics, and has been an Odd-Fellow twenty-seven years, and filled the chairs of the vice grand and noble grand. He was a Baptist when in New England. Mrs. Slaughter belongs to the Congregational church.

FRANK J. MERROW, marble dealer, Amboy, son of Asa J. and Mary C. (Norton) Merrow, was born in Bangor, Maine, in 1852. His

ancestors were early settlers in the colonies. His great-grandfather, Isaac Norton, was a merchant by occupation and a native of Vingan, Maine. He moved from there to Industry, and at a later period to Starks, in the same state, where his life closed after over twenty years of painful suffering from cancer in the face. He had one brother, Benjamin. Mr. Merrow's grandfathers, William Norton and Stephen Merrow, were revolutionary soldiers; the former was a captain, and was wounded in action; the latter a farmer by occupation, and lived at Chaplain, New Hampshire, where his son Asa J., father of our subject, was born; after several years he removed to Dover, in the same state, and died there. Mr. Merrow began his trade of working in marble when seventeen years old, and served an apprenticeship of three years in Oldtown, Maine. Early in 1869 his parents came west, settled in Amboy two years, and then moved to Clear Lake, Minnesota, where his father died June 26, 1880, aged seventy-one years and nine months. In January, 1870, he arrived in Amboy, where he resided a short time, and then located at Ashton in the marble business. In the fall of 1877 he removed to this city, where he deals in headstones and monuments, and executes a fine class of work.

JOHN H. LONG, farmer, Amboy, son of Michael and Margaret (Long) Long, was born in Canada in 1829. His maternal grandfather, Joseph Long, was a soldier of the revolution. His grandfather on his father's side moved to Canada after the war, and there Mr. Long's father was born. In 1848 he immigrated with his parents to Sublette township, where his father entered land. Mr. Long worked during that year for Col. Dement, who was at the time receiver of the land office, and in 1850 he began farming on his own account. About that time he hauled potatoes to Chicago and peddled them out by the peck and half bushel at twenty-five cents per bushel. In 1850 he married Miss Sarah Jane Fessenden, daughter of William and Sally (Spafford) Fessenden, who were early settlers in Sublette township, having arrived there from New England in 1837. Mrs. Long was born on Mount St. Pisgah or St. Helen, New Hampshire, in 1830. When the Central railroad was building Mr. Long worked with his teams at grading for \$1.50 per day at first, and afterward for the reduced sum of \$1.37½. He hauled the most of the material for the railroad buildings at Amboy; the door and window caps and sills from Mendota, and the brick from Brady's brick-yard in Palestine Grove, four miles from the town, where Dutcher & Wyman carried on the manufacture. Mr. Long owns 300 acres of land, 200 of which his father-in-law entered, and on which the old settler's house, built from lumber hauled from Chicago, is still standing. Mr. Long's farm is worth \$15,000. He is a republican, and belongs to the American



Legion of Honor. Both he and his wife are members of the Baptist church. They have had nine children: Ellen J., now Mrs. Walter Scott; Sarah M., now Mrs. Geo. W. Scott; Charles F., who married Miss Stella Wooster; Amanda E., wife of Frank M. Lamoile; John H. (dead), Samuel A., Dora E., Nettie M. and Emerson H.

BENJAMIN SMITH, freight conductor, Amboy, youngest son of Urial and Ruth Harriet (Ring) Smith, was born in New Gloucester, Cumberland county, Maine, December 8, 1834. He was reared a farmer, and in 1847 went to Boston. After eighteen months he returned and lived in his native state until 1856, when he again went to Boston and worked a year for an ice company. Two years' residence in Maine succeeded, and in 1859 he removed west and settled with his family in Amboy. He had been married on June 22, 1855, to Miss Rebecca R. Farr, of Poland, in Mr. Smith's native county. She was the daughter of William and Anna (Ridlon) Farr, and was born October 6, 1833. From December 1859 until 1863 Mr. Smith was a brakeman on the Central, but at the last date he was advanced to conductor. In 1868 he removed to Livingston county, this state, where he had purchased a farm in Sullivan township, and gave his hand for a few years to the plow. But he could not subdue the enchantment of railroading, and so returned to the old employment, leaving his family to live upon the farm. In 1875 they removed to Chatsworth and lived a year, and the next spring came to Amboy, where they have since resided. Mrs. Smith belongs to the United Brethren church, and Mr. Smith is a republican, and a member of the American Legion of Honor. They have two daughters, Mary Ella, born in Maine, June 12, 1859; and Harriet, born July 27, 1861. Both graduated at the Amboy High School in the class of 1879.

GEORGE F. MORGAN, railroad conductor, Amboy, was born in Carbondale, Luzerne county, Pennsylvania, September 24, 1843, and was the youngest child of William J. and Barbara (Lewis) Morgan. His parents came from Wales when young. In 1858 Mr. Morgan left his home and reached Dubuque, and two years later went to braking on the Central. In the fall of 1864 he enlisted for one year as a recruit in Co. A, 11th Ill. Inf., and joined it at Memphis. When it was mustered out he was transferred to Co. H, 46th Ill. Inf., and was with this at Baton Rouge, Shreveport and New Orleans, and was mustered out at the latter place in October 1865. During most of the time he was on detached service at division headquarters, as clerk. After this he followed railroading on the Central, and selling groceries in Amboy, and in 1869 became a conductor. In 1868 he was married to Miss Joanna Badger, daughter of Simon Badger, by whom he has three children: Mabel R., born March 10, 1869; Simon C., September 11, 1872, and



Maud E., January 9, 1873. Both parents are members of the Methodist church. Mr. Morgan is a republican, and belongs to Illinois Central Lodge No. 178, A.F. and A.M.; Nachusa Chapter No. 52, Dixon; and Dixon Commandery No. 21.

ALBERT E. MERWINE, freight and ticket agent on the Rock Falls branch of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railroad, Amboy, is the son of Harris D. and Thurza (Morris) Merwine, and a native of Paw Paw in this county, where he was born in 1853. His parents emigrated from Pennsylvania about 1845. Mr. Merwine worked at farming and tending store for some years, and in 1872 accepted the position of station agent at Hinsdale, on the main line of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railroad. In 1873 he was transferred to Amboy. His marriage with Miss Irene M. Cole, of this city, was in September 1875. Carrie is their only child. Mr. Merwine is a republican, an Odd-Fellow, and a workman. His grandfather, Isaac Morris, was a drummer boy of 1812, and draws a pension.

RUSSELL W. ROSIER, deceased, youngest son of Sylvester and Electa C. (Reppley) Rosier, was born in Bennington, Vermont, December 17, 1829. His parents settled in Fond du Lac county, Wisconsin, about 1845, and two or three years afterward he went to work as a brakeman, and followed railroading the rest of his life. He was brakeman two years, fireman two more, and then was given an engine, and remained at that post until his death. On April 2, 1857, he was united in marriage with Miss Louisa Hincheliff, daughter of Titus and Amelia (Davis) Hincheliff, of De Soto, Jackson county, Illinois. She was born January 17, 1840. In October Mr. Rosier settled in Amboy. In 1859 he went to Tennessee and was engineer on the Nashville & Chattanooga railroad; in a few months he was followed by Mrs. Rosier, and they established their home at Cowan Station, at the foot of the Cumberland mountains, on the west side. They remained there until the cloud of civil war obliged them to take refuge in the north, and then returned to this city. Mr. Rosier reentered the service of the Central company, and never more tried a change. His death came February 7, 1881. His affiliations were with the Masons and the Engineers' Brotherhood, and he was chief of division No. 72 of the last organization at the date of his death. Himself and his wife were members of the Methodist church, and he had filled the offices of steward and trustee. In politics he was a republican. Their only child was an adopted daughter, Emma May. Mr. Rosier was an industrious, reliable man, of few words but decisive action. He had strong domestic habits and attachments, and was known and respected for his christian kindness and benevolent disposition. His remains were interred in Prairie Repose cemetery.

**MICHAEL EGAN**, builder, Amboy, was born in Kilrush, county of Clare, Ireland, September 26, 1821. He received a fair education. His father, John Egan, was a mason, and from him he learned the same trade, beginning when fifteen years old, and serving an apprenticeship of seven years. He was employed largely on government works. In the spring of 1846 he arrived in New York city and went to work for Matthias and Freeman Bloodgood, contractors, on a bonded warehouse. At the end of twenty months he removed to Springfield, Massachusetts, and worked at his trade seven years for Capt. Charles McClellan. In the last place he became a naturalized citizen. In the winter of 1852-3 he was employed by J. B. Wyman to come west to work on the Illinois Central. He arrived in February, and commenced on bridges and culverts south of La Salle, and in June following came to Amboy and began the erection of the railroad buildings, whose construction he superintended until the last was finished. From that time till the present he has been in the employ of this company, except during the four years between 1876 and 1880. He is now their inspector and purchasing and disbursing agent for cord-wood and cross-ties. Mr. Egan has been alderman several terms and mayor twice, director of the public schools and secretary of the board of education, and a foremost actor in the public business of the community. His family are Catholics, and the first services of this church, in Amboy, were in his house. His first marriage was in 1844, with Miss Ellen Morrissy, daughter of John and Bridget Morrissy. Her death was on January 27, 1869, when about forty-five years of age. She was the mother of eleven children, as follows: Bridget (dead), Susan (dead), John, Ellen (dead), Peter, Michael Francis, Alfred, Joseph, Mary, Benjamin and Teressa (dead). He was married a second time in 1872, to Mrs. Helen (Stewart), widow of James Barrie. Her children were Lizzie, Robert, and Jemima. By the last marriage there are two living children, Ellen and William A. S.

**BRYANT B. HOWARD**, general foreman of the Illinois Central railroad shops at Amboy, was born in Chicago September 13, 1836, and was the third child of Leonard and Caroline Esther (Smith) Howard. His father was a contractor, and came to Chicago from Buffalo, New York, in 1836, and built the first brick building ever erected in that city. In 1853 Mr. Howard went to learn the machinist's trade, and soon after completing it came to Amboy, arriving August 3, 1856. He was at once employed in the Central shops, and in 1858 he took charge of the Roundhouse as foreman; in 1866 he was promoted to general foreman of all the shops, and has since filled that position. He was married January 3, 1860, to Miss Mary Kaley, who was born in 1838, in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, to which place her parents had

emigrated from Switzerland about 1836. Four children have been born to them, viz: George, Josephine, Fannie and Maud. Mr. Howard has been alderman one term; he is a member of Illinois Central Lodge No. 178, A.F. and A.M., Friendship Council No. 567, A.L.H., Reform division No. 555, Sons of Temperance, and is a prohibitionist in politics.

EDWARD S. REYNOLDS, carpenter and joiner, Amboy, son of Hatfield and Lydia (Salsbery) Reynolds, is a native of Susquehanna county, Pennsylvania, and was born there August 18, 1827. He was reared on a farm, but learned his trade before he became of age. In September, 1853, he was married to Miss Mary E. Dean, and the next December removed to Illinois and located for the time being at Binghamton. Mr. Reynolds erected one of the two first houses in Amboy, and in August, 1854, occupied it with his family, and claims to have been the first to move into the place after it was laid out, though this point is disputed by Dr. Bainter, who makes the same claim for himself. He was one of the first board of aldermen after Amboy became a city, and was a charter member of Illinois Central Lodge No. 178, A.F. and A.M. His first wife died in 1867, and in 1871 he took Miss Mary A. Fairman in marriage. He has two sons by his first wife, Edgar W. and Charles L., and by the second, William G. Mrs. Reynolds is a communicant in the Methodist Episcopal church, and Mr. Reynolds, who was formerly a whig, is now a republican.

HENRY CHAPIN, farmer, Amboy, was born in New York in 1824. He was the fifth child of Aretus and Anna (Rice) Chapin, who emigrated from Vermont to New York. He was reared a blacksmith, went to his trade at fifteen, and worked at it forty years. In the spring of 1845 he came by the lakes to Illinois, and settled in Oswego, Kendall county. Here he was married on the 1st of May 1850, to Miss Adelia L. Butler, sister to C. M. Butler and Mrs. C. W. Bell, of Amboy. She came from Michigan to Illinois in 1844. In 1852 he settled in Lockport, Will county, and in the fall of 1855 in Amboy. He erected the first blacksmith shop on the east side of the railroad, and the second in the town, and in the course of time combined with custom work the manufacture of wagons and carriages. After forty years of intensely earnest, driving work at the forge, he called forth the firewell echoes of his anvil in September 1879. He owns three farms aggregating 400 acres, and valued at \$13,000. These tell the story of his toil. Both Mr. and Mrs. Chapin are members of the Methodist church, and the former was one of the building committee who had the erection of the new edifice in charge. In politics he is a republican. Their children are Frank H., Addie G. and Ella May.

FLAVIL F. NORTHWAY, farmer and stock raiser, Amboy, is a native



of Steuben county, New York, where he was born May 4, 1844. His parents, Francis H. and Minerva (Stewart) Northway, removed west in the autumn of 1844, and settled on the S.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 3, T. 20, R. 10, two miles north of Amboy. He enlisted in October, 1864, in Co. C, 7th Ill. Cav., Col. Graham. He served his time in Tennessee, Mississippi and Alabama, scouting and doing guard and garrison duty, and was mustered out in October, 1865, at Huntsville, Alabama. He was married in 1873, to Miss Olive S. Tracy. Two children have been born to them: Daisy M. (dead), and Guy. Mr. Northway owns the old homestead on which he was reared, which is valued at \$8,000. This was swept by the great tornado of 1860. The buildings were blown to atoms. The family, seven in number, escaped with their lives, but were more or less injured. This storm killed one-seventh of all who were in its track. Mr. Northway is a democrat.

There are two TRUDE families in this country, one of French and the other of English extraction. The former is the one to which we refer in the present sketch. John Trude, the founder of the name in America, was impressed into the French navy at the age of eleven and was held until he had performed eleven years' service. On his return home he could learn nothing of his family, and as the Marquis Lafayette was preparing to depart for America, he joined him as an adventurer, enlisting in the cause of the colonies. After his arrival upon our shores he fought at Brandywine and other places, and at the close of the war settled at Horseneck, Rhode Island, where he married an American woman named Baker. Here they had a son, William B., born June 21, 1790. He married Betsy Eldridge, who was born the same year in Washington county, New York, and whose father bore arms at Crown Point, Bennington, Stony Point, and Saratoga. This couple are buried at St. Charles, Kane county. Mr. Trude was aged seventy-seven at his death, and his companion sixty-three. William E. Trude, their son, is a locomotive engineer, and resides at Amboy. He was born December 29, 1831, in Lisbon, St. Lawrence county, New York, and reared on his father's farm. In 1852 he came west, and in March, 1855, settled in this place in the employ of the Central company. On July 6, 1858, he was married to Miss Candace Rolf, of his native town, who was born December 25, 1835. Her mother died June 9, 1839, at about thirty-five years of age, and her father in 1879, aged eighty-six. Two sons have blessed their union: Fred W., born July 19, 1859, who graduated at the Amboy High School in the class of 1877, and married March 24, 1881, to Miss Josephine McCormack; and Frank, born April 3, 1868. Mrs. Trude is a member of the Methodist church. Mr. Trude is a Mason, a workman, and a member of the Engineers' Brotherhood.



HERBERT A. MILLARD, painter, Amboy, is the son of Ira and Lorinda (Cargill) Millard, who moved to this place from La Salle county, Illinois, in January 1856. His father was born September 5, 1817, and his mother in Windham, Greene county, New York, September 3, 1829. The maternal grandfather of the latter was Amos Parker, a revolutionary soldier, who served seven years, and had the distinguished honor of saving the life of Gen. Lafayette at Yorktown. The latter, in giving orders for an assault, had directed that not a gun should be fired, but this soldier discovered a British sharpshooter drawing aim on Lafayette, and he hastened to bring him down in spite of orders. When the general visited this country in 1824 he sent to Mr. Parker, who was living in Augusta, Oneida county, New York, to meet him at Utica, in the same county, and he did so. During the revolution Mr. Parker lived at Wallingford, Connecticut, but in 1793 moved to New York, and here Mrs. Millard's mother, Elizabeth Parker, was born on August 9 of that year. She was three times married: first to Abram Cargill, next to Riverius Wilcox, and last to Calvin Chipman, a veteran of the war of 1812. In 1838 she removed with her second husband to La Salle county. She died in Amboy April 14, 1881, in her eighty-eighth year. Mr. and Mrs. Millard were married in 1849. After their settlement here the former was some time engaged in trade in a feed and flour store. They had the following children: Ida E., born September 10, 1850, married April 13, 1870, to Wm. C. Miner, of Muskegon, Michigan; Noble J. B., born September 17, 1852; Herbert A., born January 23, 1859, married Miss Jennie Spencer July 25, 1880; Clarence A., born August 20, 1863; Ira Adelbert, born March 18, 1868, and an infant born and died March 17, 1856. Besides these children of their own they reared Stephen Z. Hartley, a nephew of Mr. Millard, from the age of four till he was eighteen years old. He learned the shoemaker's trade, and the printer's trade in the Amboy "Journal" office, and was a promising young man. In November, 1862, he enlisted in the 17th U. S. Inf., and in the following March was sent to Fort Preble, Portland, Maine, where he died on the 17th of the next April from small-pox.

ALEXANDER H. WOOSTER, farmer, Amboy, born in Owego, Tioga county, New York, April 6, 1829, was the son of Calvin and Hannah (Matson) Wooster. His ancestors were early settlers in Connecticut. Mr. Wooster was graduated at the high school at Cleveland, Ohio, about 1846, and bred to mercantile life. On December 9, 1851, he was united in marriage with Miss Ruth Harding, of Freedom, La Salle county, Illinois, and by her has had four children: Charles H., Stella A., wife of Charles F. Long; Anna, now Mrs. D. C. Badger, and Wm. L. In the spring of 1855 Mr. Wooster came to Amboy, and on his ar-



John B. Wyman



rival set up in a general merchandise business with A. E. Wilcox, and continued it subsequently with his brother David G. Wooster and others. After a few years he moved to a farm adjacent to the city limits on the northwest, where he now resides; this comprises 204 acres. Mr. Wooster is a member of Illinois Central Lodge, No 178, A.F. and A.M., and has occupied the master's chair in that lodge nine terms. He was first installed in December 1869, and served five years in succession, and after an interim of two years came to that position again four years more. Both himself and wife are members of the Baptist church of Amboy.

ASA B. SEARLES, farmer, Amboy, born at Cincinnatus (now Pitcher), Chenango county, New York, January 27, 1810, was the next to the last in a family of six children by Elihu and Ruth Ann (Hawley) Searles. The children were named Harry, Abram, Lemuel, Asa, David and Pamela. The mother had three children, Polly, Phebe, and Fanny, by a former marriage. Three of Mr. Searles' uncles, Gideon, Abram, and Isaac Hawley, were soldiers of the revolution; and Lemuel Hawley was a sea captain in the service of Stephen Girard, and died of yellow fever at Philadelphia. His father was in the military service in the last war with Great Britain, and died at Sackett's Harbor; and William Morgan, of anti-Masonic celebrity, brought young Searles the first tidings of his father's death. At the age of twelve he was bound to Edmund Meigs, of Tinkertown (now Hobart), to learn the cabinet trade, but being the youngest apprentice in the shop was made to do all the drudgery, and was so ill-treated that after staying a year and a half he ran away, and at length found a home with his brother Harry, at Marathon, and lived with him until he was sixteen, getting in the meantime but half a term's schooling. Going now to South Bainbridge, he lived there four or five years, and attended school where his brother Lemuel taught. Joe Smith, the coming prophet, was a fellow-pupil, with whom, uncle Asa says, he had many a wrestle; but young Smith was a large, strong fellow and could handle any of the boys. He was lazy, but kind-hearted, had a large brain and a good deal of ability. The whole family of Smiths, including the mother, were bony, stout-built persons, and in a little while they had all settled in that neighborhood. At nineteen Mr. Searles began teaching school and piloting on the Susquehanna river. This last business he followed six years; he contracted heavy jobs of rafting and floating logs and lumber; employed as many as 200 men; and cleared \$3,000 in spite of some large losses. On September 19, 1832, he was married to Patience Stockwell, of Bainbridge. He left that place August 19, 1837, with a two-horse team, accompanied by thirteen persons, and arrived at Palestine Grove October 11, and entered the land and settled where he



lives. Altogether Mr. Searles entered sixteen "eighties," and bought, besides, 200 acres in May township. At this time the land office was at Galena, and Col. Dement the receiver. The land about Palestine Grove did not come into market until the fall of 1844, but in the vicinity of Dixon it was placed on sale a few years earlier, on petition of Father Dixon. Mr. Searles took no little personal interest in the settling up of the country, and entertained land-hunters in large numbers, and drove about the wild prairies with them days upon days in the unwearying labor of showing claims. In 1848 he laid out the village of Binghamton. He erected a hotel bearing the name of the place; and a store in which he traded nearly two years. We have not the space to recount the numerous activities with which his name has been associated, but in short he has been a live man, from whose gettings many have profited more than he, a result which may be charged with equal justice to his generosity and his convivial habits. He was appointed postmaster about 1840, by Amos Kendall, and kept the office at his house; again he was commissioned under Polk, and the office was kept in his store at Binghamton. He resigned, and Warren Badger succeeded only a short time before the removal to Amboy. Mrs. Searles died December 19, 1846; and in 1852 Mr. Searles married Miss Amanda Headlee, by whom he has five sons: Lemuel B., Frederick D., John Henry, Frank Leslie, and Levi Headlee. Lemuel went with Gen. Custer to Dakota in the 7th United States cavalry, and served sixteen months. Mr. Searles has been coroner; and he assessed Amboy the first time that service was ever performed.

MRS. CAROLINE A. BARTLETT, widow of William C. Bartlett, Amboy, was the daughter of Hosea and Clementine Vinton, of North Woodstock, Connecticut, where her English and Scotch ancestors settled in the earliest days of the colony, when the people of the neighborhood had to work in gangs of twenty or thirty to be prepared to resist the Indians, and at night went four miles together to the fort on Muddy Brook. In 1847 Mrs. Bartlett was united in marriage with Danford Bartlett, who was killed at Hartford, Connecticut, October 6, 1852. He was assisting to load a boiler on a car, when it accidentally rolled over him, crushing him to death. On October 18, 1854, she celebrated her second marriage, with William C. Bartlett, who was a native of Edinburgh, New York, where he was born November 23, 1824. His father died when he was a lad, and at the age of thirteen his mother started with her family for Racine, Wisconsin, but died on the way. Orphaned at this early age, he now lived with his brother James and with his sister, working on a farm until he was eighteen, when he apprenticed himself to the carpenter's trade, and followed this the rest of his life. He came to Amboy in the fall of 1853. Immediately on

his marriage, the first in the village of Amboy, he settled in Racine, Wisconsin, where he at once became under-sheriff of the county, and was in this position three years. Returning to this city in May, 1858, he was employed in the car shops from that time until his death, which occurred suddenly December 10, 1874. Mr. Bartlett was received into the fellowship of the Adventist church in 1859, became a leading member of the society, and was respected by all the community. He was a nephew of Olney, the geographer. Mrs. Bartlett was the mother of one child by her first marriage. This died in infancy. By the second two sons were born to her: William E., died in infancy, and Frank Eugene.

REV. DANIEL S. CLARK, Amboy, was born of Puritan stock in Ellington, Connecticut, January 25, 1822. While yet young his parents, David and Sarah (Bartlett) Clark, moved to West Woodstock, where he learned the carpenter's trade, and in 1846 was married to Miss Nancy M. Vinton, of North Woodstock. With his young wife he went to Southbridge and lived four years, and then moved to Racine, Wisconsin, for three years. While working at his trade in Chicago he was employed by the Illinois Central Railroad Company to put up buildings on their line of road, and in the autumn of 1853 he reached Amboy, where he superintended the wood-work on the railroad buildings at this place. He afterward built a planing-mill and dealt in lumber here; but in 1859 he took leave of this business and of his trade and began as a regular exhorter in the Second Advent Christian church, and in 1860 was ordained at Binghamton to preach. Prior to this time Mr. Clark had been a Baptist and a Methodist, and had displayed great zeal and activity in labors to suppress the sale and use of intoxicating stimulants. He preached for the Adventist society at Amboy several years; he was located at Sparland, Illinois, fifteen months; at Sparta, Wisconsin, two years; at Putnam and Dennisonville, Connecticut, a year and a half; at Scituate, Rhode Island, one year; at Boston and Plymouth, Massachusetts, one year; and in July, 1880, he returned to his old home in this city, and is now ministering to a church at Brodhead, Wisconsin. Mrs. Clark's great-grandfather Leach was a veteran of the war of the revolution. She was formerly a communicant in the Baptist church, but has since united with the church to which her husband belongs.

WILLIAM N. FASOLDT, deceased, was a native of Germany, where he was born April 5, 1825. He was a jeweler, and emigrated to America about 1850. He lived in Albany, New York, three years, and then at South Bend, Indiana, where he married Miss Pauline Bower. In 1864 he came to Amboy, and set up in the jewelry business. He was once burnt out, besides having a fire in his new brick hall erected in

1871. In this last year Mr. Fasoldt retired from the jewelry business, and died June 6, 1880, at the age of fifty-five years, two months and one day. His remains lie in Prairie Repose cemetery. He had three children by his first marriage: Mary, now Mrs. Christ. Vogel, living at Storm Lake, Iowa; Edward, whose whereabouts have been unknown for nine years, and Anna M. Mr. Fasoldt's wife died in March, 1865, and he married Miss Rena Teal January 17, 1868. She was born November 12, 1844, and was the daughter of Charles and Margaret (Scholbar) Teal. Her parents came to America from Germany in 1847, arriving at Lee Center in May, having come all the way to Chicago by water, and the remainder of the journey by country teams which had been to market. The family settled a mile north of Lee Center. The father died September 22, 1860, aged fifty-four, and the mother June 11, 1880, at the age of sixty-seven years. They are buried in the Lee Center cemetery. Mrs. Fasoldt is a member of the First Congregational church of Amboy.

MARTIN MAUS emigrated from Germany in 1850, when twenty-four years old. He lived in Chicago till 1854, when he came to Amboy, where he married Miss Christina Teal, who has borne him four children: Charles, Rena, Sophia, and Henry. He has been in the harness business twenty-seven years altogether, and in the trade for himself eighteen years.

WILLIAM H. HALE, passenger conductor, Amboy, was born in Harmony township, Susquehanna county, Pennsylvania, March 15, 1838. In 1845 his parents, Alva and Clara (Root) Hale, removed to Lee county, and settled at Temperance Hill, in China township. About 1855 they changed their home to Sublette township, where Mrs. Hale died, in January 1879, aged seventy-six years, and Mr. Hale in May 1881, at the age of eighty-five. The subject of this sketch went to railroading on the Central in 1857, and in May, 1861, enlisted in Co. C, 13th Ill. reg. He was severely wounded in the right knee by a fragment of shell at Chickasaw Bayou, December 29, 1862. After the fall of Vicksburg he was detailed for service in the quartermaster's department, where he passed the remainder of his term, except two months at the close, and was mustered out at Springfield, Illinois, June 18, 1864. On his return he resumed the position of baggage-man, which he vacated at the outbreak of the war, and in two years was promoted to conductor. He was married June 5, 1867, to Miss Letitia W. Wicks, of Davenport, Iowa. She was born February 22, 1849. Their son, Henry V., is ten years of age, and their adopted daughter, Louie, nine. Mr. and Mrs. Hale are members of the Episcopal church. He is an Odd-Fellow, a Mason, a Knight of Pythias, belongs to the American Legion of Honor, and Bethany Commandery,



No. 28, Mendota, of which he has been eminent commander two years. This commandery presented Mr. Hale an elegant sword in 1880. Mr. Hale's father was remarkable for his good health. He was never so sick as to need an attendant, and his last illness was only of a few hours' duration. He died of heart disease, greatly respected by a numerous acquaintance.

JOHN M. BLOCHER, retired, Amboy, was born January 8, 1804, in the kingdom of Wurtemberg, Germany. He learned the carpenter's trade, and in 1824 went to France and followed that business seven years, at 18 cents per day in summer and 10 cents per day in winter. Returning to Germany in 1831, he emigrated to America and lived in Connecticut nine years, working as a farm laborer most of the time. On April 9, 1838, he was married to Miss Hannah S. Schafer, who was born October 20, 1813. In 1841 he moved to Bradford county, Pennsylvania, and settled in the woods, where he cleared a farm and lived until 1849. He then came to Illinois and made a home a mile and a half north of Amboy, on the farm now owned by Henry C. Shaw's heirs. In 1868 he sold this property and moved to Amboy. Mr. Blocher united with the Congregational church in Connecticut in 1837, and Mrs. Bolcher in 1839. Three of their children are now members of the same church. Mr. Blocher and his wife assisted to organize the Congregational church of Amboy, and they and Mr. and Mrs. John C. Church are the only surviving original members of this society. Mr. Blocher has given his active support to the temperance cause in every practicable way. He belonged to the first division of the Sons of Temperance ever in existence here; this was organized at Binghamton, but moved to Amboy as soon as Farwell Hall was ready for occupancy. He has been a republican since the party was formed, and during the war was connected with the Union League. Mr. and Mrs. Blocher are the parents of nine children, as follows: John G. (dead), Mary E., wife of Newton Campbell, living in Dakota; William L. (dead), Hannah S., now Mrs. Thomas Coster, living in Dakota; John G., William L. (dead), Henry S., Rebecca B., wife of Curtis Bridgman; and Agnes B., born December 16, 1851, wife of Joseph Blackman, to whom she was married December 22, 1873. Mr. Blackman is a native of England, where he was born June 21, 1845; his parents, John and Mary Blackman, who reside three miles above Dixon, emigrated to this country in 1850, and about 1856 settled in Lee county. He has been on the railroad sixteen years; seven years as fireman, and the remainder as engineer, and all the time in the employ of the Central company. Mr. and Mrs. Blackman have one son, Henry J., born October 6, 1874. She has belonged



to the Baptist church since the age of fourteen. He is a Mason, and a member of the Engineers' Brotherhood.

OSCAR SPANGLER, confectioner, Amboy, was born in Muskingum county, Ohio, in 1842. In 1857 he moved with his parents, Benjamin and Lydia (Bell) Spangler, to Lee county, and made a home in Marion township, where his father died November 12, 1880. Mr. Spangler volunteered in June, 1862, in Co. K, 69th Ill. reg., for six months, and served his time. In the fall of 1863 he began on the Central railroad and followed it as fireman two years, and then was given a locomotive to run. He continued as engineer until June 29, 1876, when he met with a disaster which nearly cost him his life. Two cars, one empty, the other loaded, were let out of the switch, in some manner, at Baileyville, and ran down the track in the direction of Freeport, crossed the Yellow Creek bridge, and ascended the grade on the other side as far as their momentum would propel them, and had reversed their motion and were coming back toward the creek, and were within fifty yards of the bridge, when Mr. Spangler's train of thirty-two cars struck them. The time was midnight, and the weather warm, rainy, and a little foggy. The engine and twenty-six cars were totally wrecked. A tramp sleeping in one of the wild cars was killed. Mr. Spangler's fireman was seriously injured, and he himself still worse: so that he was two years recovering, and was on crutches that length of time; in fact he has not recovered, and never will, entire soundness. In December, 1876, he opened a cigar and confectionery store and restaurant in Amboy, and is at present engaged in that business. He is an Odd-Fellow and a republican. He was first married July 2, 1866, to Miss S. A. Shew, who bore two children, Harriet and Joseph, and died January 29, 1878. His second marriage was November 27, 1879, with Miss E. M. Foskey. She is a Congregationalist.

JAMES H. PRESTON, county superintendent of schools, Amboy, was born at Rochester, New York, June 3, 1820, and was the son of James and Mary (Gorham) Preston. He was reared a farmer, trained to hard work, and educated in the common schools, in which he received thorough practical English mental training. In the East his principal occupation was farming, but he taught fourteen winters in succession in district schools. On May 16, 1845, he was married to Miss Nancy Ann Maydole, who was born in 1824. Their five children were named as follows: Albert W. (dead), Frances (dead), Addie, Charles F., and Bertie. On June 22, 1854, Mr. Preston arrived with his family from New York, and located in Marion township, on railroad land at \$2.50 per acre. Leaving his family on the farm, the following season he went to Binghamton and took control of the Union store, as agent, and con-

ducted the business until its affairs were wound up in the spring of 1857. He farmed from that time till 1865. In that year he was elected county superintendent of schools, and served two terms of four years each; in 1873 he ran as an independent candidate against a republican and a "granger" nominee, but was distanced in the race by the former. But in 1877 he recovered the position, and at the present time is discharging its duties. Since 1865 his residence has been in Amboy, and he is serving his second year as alderman. In Marion township he was justice of the peace and assessor. He is a republican, and has taken a lively interest in political and other matters of public concern, and since 1858 has attended every political convention of importance held in the county. Near the close of the war his son Albert (now deceased) enlisted in the 140th Ill. Vols. for 100 days, and did military service for five months in Missouri and Tennessee. Mr. Preston's ancestors came to Massachusetts in colonial times (from Ireland, it is supposed). His grandfather Preston was a soldier of the revolution, and his father was called into service in the last war with Great Britain, and was marching on Plattsburg when that battle was fought. His maternal ancestors were sea-faring people, engaged in the whale fishery, and lived at Nantucket.

COL. GEORGE RYON, physician and surgeon, Amboy, was born in Pennsylvania, June 5, 1827. His great-grandfather, John Ryon, was an Irishman, and emigrated to New England; his grandfather, who bore the same name, was a revolutionary soldier, who fought through the whole war. Col. Ryon passed his early life on his father's farm, and when he began on his own account entered the medical profession. He studied first with Dr. Isaac Ives, and next with Wheeler & Holden, of Kendall county; and after two courses of lectures at Rush Medical College, Chicago, graduated in 1851. He located in practice at Paw Paw, in this county, in 1850; in 1856 he commenced the study of law and was admitted to the bar two years after; but he did not quit his medical practice, as he found it impossible to shake off his old patrons. In 1860 he was elected by the republican party to the general assembly as representative from Lee and Whitesides counties, and was a member when the war broke out. He served one term at that time; and in August, 1862, he raised Co. K, 75th Ill. Vols., and on the organization of the regiment was elected colonel. Within eight days after leaving Dixon his command participated in the battle of Perryville. Owing to failing health he was obliged to resign, which he did about the beginning of 1863. In 1866 he was again elected to the legislature from this county. In 1869 he removed to Amboy, and started a private bank; in 1873 he discontinued this business and settled in Streator, where he incorporated the Streator Coal Company with a

capital of \$200,000. On his removal to Chicago in 1876 he resumed the practice of medicine, and has since continued it. He returned to Amboy in 1879 to reside. In 1852 he took Miss Ruth Ann Ives in marriage, and by her has an only daughter, Carrie S., who graduated at the Chicago University, at the age of nineteen, in a four-years course, and did not lose a day from her classes in the whole time.

Hard labor is the most productive when united with thoughtful calculation. A good example of what a perfect union of thought, industry and energy can do when concentrated upon a single object is to be seen in the life of LEWIS CLAPP. He came from Northampton, Massachusetts, as a member of the Northampton colony, and located at Princeton, Bureau county. They arrived on June 1, 1836, having been just a month on their journey. Some time in the summer Mr. Clapp was powerfully converted to religion, and though he never chose to become a member of any church, he was during the remainder of his life an exact, consistent christian, who never omitted to invoke the heavenly blessing at his table, or to bring his daily offering of prayer to the family altar. From his settlement here till 1846 he was a hard laborer at the plow and in the stock business, but at the same time was employing his reflections in a way to make his industry bring the most gain. From the last date during a period of twenty years he gradually withdrew his hand from rigid toil, until he became exclusively a money-lender, and this business engaged his whole attention for the last ten years of his life. About 1852 he began operating in land, which was a lucrative business, and good fortune, made possible by good judgment, followed all his transactions. His land speculations lasted some five years. People to whom he lent money usually prospered; not because they paid interest, but because he always calculated their ability to pay back the funds borrowed without impairment of the security, and noted the circumstances favorable or unfavorable to their doing so; and if such consideration left him any question concerning the applicant he would fail to get money. This speaks not only a good deal for his judgment but very much also for his integrity. For twenty-five years he was a leading farmer and citizen of Lee county, and took a prominent part in all measures for the common welfare. As a matter of personal interest he was a member of the Grove Association, but in that he was recognized as a man of wise counsel. It was as a member of the Vigilance Committee, however, during the troubled times that the country was harrassed by the bandits, that he conspicuously displayed his earnestness and enthusiasm in pursuit of evil-doers, and the maintenance of public order and security. It is interesting to know that he espoused the doctrines of the abolitionists with so much fervor that he threw open his house to those apostles of emancipation, Owen



Lovejoy and Deacon Hannan, for them to preach in, when denominational places of worship were closed in their faces. He went so much further as to put his principles into effect by operating on the underground railroad and delivering fugitive slaves in Canada, a place toward which they toiled with eager longing while their hearts burned with the ardent fires of liberty. His first marriage was in 1836, but his wife dying in 1839 he married again in 1840. His only son, Ozro W., was born in 1836. Mr. Clapp bought his first claim, N.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 8, in Lee Center township. In 1837 he sold his corn crop for \$1,000. In 1839 he built the first frame house in the eastern part of the county, and hauled his lumber from Chicago with ox-teams. Perfect system and aggressive enterprise characterized all he did, and he startled easy-going people by building at an early day a frame barn in the new settlement. He gave largely toward the construction of the Lee Center Academy, and had a lively appreciation of the benefits of popular education, and at last gave very striking proof of his faith.

WILLIAM E. IVES, attorney, Amboy, was born in Chautauqua county, New York, May 24, 1821. His father was a farmer and surveyor, and in 1834 emigrated with his family to Kendall county, Illinois. He was the first recorder of deeds in that county, and subsequently was probate judge two successive terms. In 1854 he removed to Amboy, and died here March 18, 1864, aged seventy-five years. The subject of this sketch received an academic education, and in 1854 was admitted to the bar in Kendall county; he came to Amboy the same year, and is now the only lawyer in the county who has practiced here since that date. Mr. Ives was mayor of Amboy from 1861 to 1865, and prosecuting attorney of Lee county between 1872 and 1876. Politically he is a republican, and he has belonged to the Baptist church since 1841. Mrs. Ives is a member of long standing in the same church. On December 8, 1841, he was married to Miss Susan Ryan. They have three living children: Charles E., Esther M. and James R. Charles is junior member of the law firm of W. E. Ives & Son. He served three months in 1862 in Co. K, 69th Ill. Vols., and re-enlisted in October 1864, in Co. G, 146th reg., and was mustered out the next July. James is a graduate from the Rochester University, of New York, and is a practicing attorney in Denver, Colorado.

CHARLES K. DIXON, train dispatcher Illinois Central railroad, Amboy, youngest child of John and Matilda (Savage) Dixon, was born in 1846, in Grandy, Shefford county, Province of Quebec, Canada. He received a good English education in his native town. On May 24, 1861, he was mustered into the United States service, Co. H, 15th Ill. Inf., Capt. (afterward Gen.) John Pope. This regiment was brigaded with the 21st Ill., Col. U. S. Grant, the 6th and the 7th Missouri, one



battalion of Col. Marshall's 1st Ill. Cav., and Capt. Mann's Missouri battery, the whole under command of Col. Grant. This was the first brigade of the first corps formed in the west. The corps was numbered 1st and transferred to Fremont's department, and went through his whole campaign. Mr. Dixon was at Springfield, Missouri, when Gen. Fremont was superseded by Gen. Hunter. He was moved from that state to Fort Donelson in time to participate in the brilliant and successful operations against that stronghold. He was next engaged at Shiloh, and was wounded in the hip early in the first day's action. This disability placed him on the non-effective force ninety days. He fought, subsequently, at Metamora, sometimes called "Hell on the Hatchie"; this engagement was followed by his service in the siege of Vicksburg, and then the second battle of Champion Hills, in which the 15th reg. was on the skirmish line. This service of Mr. Dixon's was interlarded with the usual complement of small fights. He was mustered out at Springfield, Illinois, in August 1864. He at once secured employment on the Illinois Central railroad, and has continued without interruption to the present time. The last eleven years he has acted as train dispatcher; prior to that he was operator. He is a member of Illinois Central Lodge, No. 178, A.F. and A.M.; Nathan Whitney Chapter, Franklin Grove; Dixon Commandery, No. 21; and in politics a republican.

JOHN HOOK, farmer, Amboy, was born in Orino, seven miles above Bangor, Maine, October 16, 1814. He was the son of Aaron and Rhoda (Gibson) Hook, the former of whom was a native of New Hampshire, and the latter of Vermont. John and Humphrey Hook came from England early in the last century. The former was the great-grandfather of our subject, and settled in Massachusetts; the other, it is conjectured, went to the middle states. His maternal ancestors emigrated from Scotland. His father and his uncle, John Hook, were drummers in the last war with Great Britain. His grandfather, John Hook, worked at ship-carpentry, and went upon the seas as captain of a schooner. His father was a carpenter and joiner, and he worked with him at this trade as long as he lived in his native state. On July 29, 1836, he was married to Miss Matilda Berry, who was born in Livingston, York county, Maine, June 29, 1820. In 1839 they emigrated to Illinois, driving all the way with horse teams, except between Buffalo and Detroit, where they were transported by the steamer Milwaukee, which came near swamping by having her side stove in against the wharf at Ashtabula. The journey was begun August 26, and ended when they arrived at La Moille, Bureau county, October 28. In February, 1840, they settled at Rocky Ford, where their home has been to the present date, though they twice moved away temporarily.

When the removal from Maine was made, Mr. Hook's parents and his brother William came also; his brother Aaron had performed the journey two years before and located in Bureau county. Where Mr. Hook built his house, on the ridge, was an old Indian camping-ground, on the trail which crossed at the Ford. The Indians came frequently and in large numbers, but when they found the paleface had taken their camp they occupied the knoll south of Mr. George Freeman's. After the stage route was established by Rocky Ford the station was at Mr. Hook's several years. The subject of this sketch began the practice of the botanic system of medicine before he left Maine, and continued it ten years after coming west. He lived in Peru from 1845 to 1847, laboring in this profession with success. The family was away from Rocky Ford from 1851 to 1853, living in Rock county, Wisconsin. They have been identified with the church of Latter Day Saints, of which Mrs. Hook is a member. Mr. Hook is an old-time democrat. They have had seven children, as follows: Hester Ann, wife of Walter Brown, of Spirit Lake, Iowa; Abigail Frances, now Mrs. S. J. Stone; Sarah Elizabeth (dead), Charles Moroni, John Franklin, Hannah Josephine, and Emma Eldina.

CHAUNCEY M. ROBBINS, farmer, Amboy, was born in Steuben county, New York, November 18, 1828. He was the fifth son in a family of eight children by Hosea and Laura P. (Merchant) Robbins. His great-grandfather Sackett, an Englishman, settled in Madison county, New York, anterior to the revolution. From George III he received a grant of land on the Mohawk river, one mile wide by twenty long. This was absorbed by Stephen Van Rensselaer in his immense possessions, and has been in litigation for the last sixty years. Truman Merchant, Mr. Robbins' maternal grandfather, served the cause of the colonies as a soldier in the war for independence. Mr. Robbins' father was a carpenter, and he worked with him at that trade until he became of age. In 1846 the senior Robbins visited Lee county and purchased the S.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 17, and 40 acres of timber, in Amboy township; and in 1849 he brought his family here to make their future home. Both parents died in this township; the father April 20, 1852, and the mother December 26, 1859. Our subject returned east in 1850, remained three years, and then came back to Illinois; the winter of 1854-5 he spent again in New York; but the next spring found him in this state to remain. He has been engaged most of the time since in farming. In 1862 he bought his present farm of 80 acres, which is worth about \$4,000. He was married February 22, 1871, to Miss Angeline Perkins, by whom he has four children: William, Katie, Nelson (dead), and Stanley.

JACOB LUCE, farmer, Amboy, was the youngest of the three sons

of Israel Luce. He was born in Florida, Montgomery county, New York, September 18, 1805, and was reared a farmer, which occupation he has followed all his life. His great-grandparents emigrated from Holland, and his grandparents from New Jersey to New York. Israel Luce was a soldier in the war of 1812; he was wounded, lost his health, and died in consequence of his service in the army, and his sons were bound out. The subject of this notice was married January 9, 1828, to Miss Sarah Covenhoven, who was born November 12, 1805. She was the mother of four children: James C., John H., Emma L. and Josephine. The latter married John Y. Henry, and is now dead. In 1845 Deacon Luce settled at Crete, in Will county, Illinois, and in 1855 moved to Amboy township, and bought a farm opposite where he now lives. He was bereft of his wife February 16, 1857, and on January 23, 1859, he celebrated his marriage with Mrs. Celia Maria Forbes, daughter of Jacob Gilde. Her first union was productive of two sons, John C. and Arthur S. Their father was David C. Forbes. The elder of these enlisted in 1861 in Co. D, 34th Ill. reg.; he served through the entire war, fought in several hard-contested engagements, and was finally killed at the battle of Bentonville, North Carolina, as the last echoes of the war were sounding. Arthur volunteered in either the 51st or the 53d Ill. Inf., when but sixteen years old, and after a brief service died, as was supposed, while on his way to the hospital at St. Louis. Deacon Luce and his first wife united with the Baptist church in 1832, and he has held the office of deacon forty-five years. He assisted with liberality to erect the First Baptist church of Amboy, and he has been for many years a man of recognized influence, not only in the worshiping society to which he belongs, but also in the community at large. He was assessor in Will county, and since he came here was for a long time overseer of the poor. In politics he is a republican.

JASON CHAMBERLAIN, deceased, was the youngest son of Joshua and Nancy Chamberlain, and was born in the town of Petersham, Worcester county, Massachusetts, September 6, 1811. When he was eleven years old his father moved his family to Steuben county, New York, and being wealthy, bought a tract of several hundred acres of land. Mr. Chamberlain celebrated his first marriage with Miss Mary Ann Goodrich, about 1836. She became the mother of six children: George W., Cyrus (died in infancy), Sylvester, Mary O., Lucy G. and Harry R. (died in infancy). Her death occurred in May 1846, and Mr. Chamberlain married Sally, relict of Freeman Whited, September 12, 1847. She was born at Penn Yan, Yates county, New York, December 23, 1818. Her parents were David J. and Dorothea (Morse) Bennett, and in her father's family were but three children,



two brothers and herself. By her first husband Mrs. Chamberlain had three children: David J., Lester B. and William M. David enlisted in the 13th Ill. Vols. at the outbreak of the war and was in the service until October 6, 1861, when he died in hospital at St. Louis. In 1856, when seventeen years old, Lester died of fever in New York. Cornelia A. and Elvira F. were the children of the second marriage. The first is the wife of Henry Putnam, of Taylor county, Iowa, and the second is Mrs. C. C. Morgan, of Sterling. In 1856 Mr. Chamberlain moved to Illinois and settled in Whitesides county, where he bought a farm of 160 acres, to which, in time, he made additions. In 1867, owing to the death of his brother-in-law, Deacon Cyrus Bryant, who had left an aged and lonely widow, and to his own failing health, Mr. Chamberlain came to Amboy to reside. After his settlement here, under the ministry of the Rev. M. T. Lamb, he was brought to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ, and was baptized into the fellowship of the Amboy Baptist church. After his conversion Mr. Chamberlain lived a prayerful life, and by his deep, earnest solicitude for the interest of the church and the extension of Christ's kingdom, he gave precious evidence of the witnessing of the spirit and of God's grace in his heart. So, in the practice of the lowly virtues of hospitality, a genial and sunny temper, tender sympathy and warm affection, held to the true course by depth of principle and firmness of conviction, he grew in strength and power, and proportion to the excellent stature of christian nobility. When the hour of dissolution came he remarked to his pastor that "it was all settled; to go or to stay would be all right; God's will be done;" and in great peace he fell asleep in Jesus. Death came to him on December 21, 1880, at the age of sixty-nine, when he had "Grown ripe in years and old in piety." Deacon Bryant, another soldier of the cross, whose godly life and veteran service had stamped upon his brow the seal of divine peace and usefulness, was one of the organizers of the Amboy Baptist church, and a deacon of more than forty years' standing. He was a very liberal supporter of the gospel at all times. At Monteray, Schuyler county, New York, he nearly built a Baptist church, and on his death he gave by will \$100 to the Baptist Publication Society of Chicago; \$100 to the Home Mission Society; \$100 to the Foreign Missions; and \$100 to the Bible Union Society. Mr. Bryant and Mr. Chamberlain were life members of the Bible Union. Mrs. Bryant still lives, in her eighty-third year, in a most pitiable and helpless physical condition by reason of fracture of the hip joint.

CURTIS F. BRIDGMAN, farmer, Amboy, was born in Bainbridge, Alleghany county, New York, in 1836. He had the following brothers and sisters: Lewis, Sally, Emily, Edgar, Otis, and Emily. The latter died in 1868; Otis in 1864. The parents were Reuben and



Cynthia (Dort) Bridgman. In 1840 this family settled in Amboy township, and during the first three years of their residence lived on a claim which is now part of the farm belonging to the Shaw heirs. They then took up their home where Mr. Bridgman is living. He has eighty acres, worth \$3,500. The father died in 1866, and the mother in 1871. Mr. Bridgman was married November 7, 1866, to Miss Rebecca Blocher, daughter of John M. Blocher. She was born May 28, 1849. Their two sons John and Adna, were born respectively on November 29, 1869, and January 11, 1871. Both parents belong to the Episcopal church of Amboy. Mr. Bridgman is a republican.

SETH W. HOLMES, farmer, Amboy, eldest son of James W. and Elizabeth (Curtis) Holmes, was born in Charleston, Montgomery county, New York, July 17, 1805. He was reared a farmer, and was married to Miss Mary Hill January 21, 1830. In 1846 he removed to this township and entered and settled on his present homestead, the E.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of S.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 9. Mr. Holmes is a republican, and a member of the Free Will church at Inlet Grove. Mrs. Holmes was a communicant in the same denomination while in the east, and brought her letter west, but by reason of bodily afflictions and infirmities has not united with any society here. They have reared seven children, as follows: Mary Jane, wife of Cyrus Bridgman; Dimmis H., Isaac A., James W., Warren H. (dead), Alimira, deceased wife of Lee Cronkrite, and Jacob C. James volunteered September 26, 1861, in Co. I, 46th Ill. reg., and fought at Fort Donelson and Shiloh; was in the siege of Corinth, battle of Hatchie, and siege of Vicksburg, where he was wounded in the foot and taken prisoner May 25, 1863, and paroled June 1. He was discharged on account of his wound December 29, 1863, at Jefferson barracks, St. Louis. His marriage with Miss Elizabeth Banker was on July 8, 1874. In politics he is a republican.

GEORGE D. BAIRD, farmer, Amboy, youngest son of James and Louisa (Chamberlain) Baird, was born June 24, 1844. In 1858 Mr. Baird came west with his parents and settled one mile north of Amboy; in 1874 he sold the little farm which he owned there and moved to his present home, three miles north of the city, where he has 120 acres valued at \$6,000. This farm was in the track of the great tornado of 1860. The one occupied by Mr. Baird at that time was taken in an arm of the hurricane, and was on the out-skirt even of that, but no damage of any consequence was done, and the only evidence of force was the moving of his granary three feet. Mr. Baird was married February 4, 1872, to Miss Jennie Smith, who was born in England March 1, 1853, and emigrated to this country in 1856. Their little boy, Henry, was born February 12, 1881. Mr. and

Mrs. Baird are members of the Baptist church, and he is a republican. His parents died in this township at the following dates: his father, April 27, 1865; and his mother, March 24, 1877.

NATHANIEL BURNHAM, farmer, Amboy, was born in Greenfield, New Hampshire, April 16, 1836. His parents were Nathaniel and Mary (Wilder) Burnham. He was on his father's farm till he was fourteen; the next three years he worked in a cotton factory, except an annual term of three months that he attended school. In February 1854 his father moved with his family to Lee county, and settled in Amboy township, where he died September 19, 1871. His mother died May 14 of the previous year. Mr. Burnham has made farming his principal business, though at different times he has turned his attention to other affairs. He owns 310 acres of choice land three miles north of Amboy, worth \$15,500. He bought 120 acres of this from C. C. Cochran in 1852, and the remainder since. He was married June 6, 1872, to Miss Helen A. Deming, daughter of C. W. Deming. Mrs. Burnham was born in Watkins, New York, in 1849. Their two children were born as follows: Clara E., September 18, 1873, and Alice, March 6, 1875. Mr. and Mrs. Burnham are members of the Methodist church, and he is a republican.

OTHNIEL M. CLARK, farmer and dairyman, Lee Center, eldest son and third child of Sherman and Samantha (Bates) Clark, was born in West Hampton, Massachusetts, February 4, 1831. His father was a farmer, but he served from 1848 to 1850 at the drug business, and having completed his time abandoned it, as it was not suited to his health. In 1852 he made a voyage to California, and in 1856 returned and bought a farm in East Hampton. On April 28, 1858, he was married to Miss Mary Wright, daughter of Martin Wright, of West Hampton, and who was born August 17, 1833. They have three children: Wilbur G., Carrie A. and Sarah S. In the autumn of 1860 Mr. Clark came to Lee county, and taught school the following winter; the next spring his family arrived, and he bought a farm not far from Lee Center, in China township. In 1872 he traded this for the one he now occupies, on the Chicago road, in this township, one mile west of Lee Center. His homestead is one of the oldest places in the neighborhood, contains 145 acres, was first improved by Deacon Barnes, and is valued at \$9,000. Mr. Clark is road commissioner, and treasurer of the board, and school director in the Lee Center district, and clerk also of that board. This is a union district lying in four townships. Its affairs are not administered under the general law, but according to the terms of a charter procured from the state years ago. In addition to these public offices he is the executive agent for the Lee Center Butter and Cheese Manufacturing Company, does the buying and selling, and

has charge of all the business. Perhaps the most responsible position of all which he holds is that of president of the Lee Center Sunday-school Association, which is composed of parts of Amboy, China, Bradford, and the whole of Lee Center, and includes the Baptist, Methodist, Episcopal and Congregational denominations. Mrs. Clark has belonged to the Congregational church since she was sixteen years old, and Mr. Clark about eight years. The latter is a Conkling republican.

FRANK H. CHAPIN, farmer, Amboy, son of Henry Chapin, was born in Lockport, Will county, Illinois, July 23, 1854, and grew up in Amboy from the time he was two years old. He obtained a fair education, and spent two years in Illinois College, at Jacksonville, where he took Bryant & Stratton's business course. He learned his trade and worked in his father's carriage-shop five or six years. In 1876 he laid aside his trade and began farming. Mr. Chapin was married Tuesday, August 5, 1879, to Miss Stella Van Riper, who was born August 13, 1857. Dr. H. F. Walker and his wife, Athelia, were her foster-parents. Mr. Chapin is a republican. He owns 120 acres of land three miles north-east of Amboy, valued at \$4,500. In 1860 this was occupied by a Mr. Bixby, and was swept by the terrific hurricane of that year. The house was destroyed, but no persons were killed.

HENRY C. SHAW, deceased, was born in Victor, New York, July 7, 1820. His parents were John and Polly (Fox) Shaw. In 1841 Mr. Shaw left his native state and came to Illinois, and established his home at La Harpe, Hancock county, where he started a trade in groceries. In 1844 he married Miss Jane Waldron, daughter of Joseph and Martha (Perry) Waldron, born in Albany, New York, October 31, 1822, and came to this state with her parents in 1841. In 1845 he moved to Princeton, Bureau county, and being in poor health boarded himself and wife there one year. In 1846 he came to Binghamton and embarked in the manufacture of plows in company with his brother, Zebediah Shaw, and William and John C. Church. The firm changed once or twice, but Mr. Shaw continued a partner as long as it carried on the business. In 1852 he bought a farm in Amboy township, and from this date was occupied with the cares of farming until his death, which occurred October 7, 1874. He was the father of ten children, as follows: Olive A., born September 14, 1845, widow of Charles Evitts; William M., September 24, 1847; Willfred, July 14, 1849, married Miss Martha Hammitt, and lives in Peoria; De Forist, December 17, 1851, married Miss Marietta Wasson; Arthur H., February 12, 1854; Chauncey R., June 21, 1856; Everesto L., May 9, 1858; Charles D., September 9, 1861; Don Carlos, January 25, 1864; and Madeline M., February 3, 1868. These heirs own 160 acres of choice



Respectfully Yours  
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farming land just north of the city limits of Amboy, which has a running stream of living water through the body, giving it one of the greatest essentials of a stock farm.

BENJAMIN TREADWELL, baggage-master, Illinois Central railroad, Amboy, second son of Allen and Deborah Treadwell, was born in Pennsylvania, July 31, 1823. His mother died when he was about eight years of age, and as soon as he was old enough to work he began to earn his own living, and thereafter made his way independently in the world. His education comprised such acquirements as could be obtained in the district schools during winter terms. He followed stage-driving fifteen years, and owned a line from Belvidere, Warren county, New Jersey, to Easton, Pennsylvania. In 1854 he sold out, and on November 18 was married to Miss Caroline Aton. Immediately upon this event he emigrated to Polk county, Wisconsin, where he remained only one winter, but long enough, however, to lose his property. In the spring of 1855 he removed to Amboy and engaged the first year in farming; the second year he was butchering; and in 1858 he went on the Central railroad as baggageman, and has held that position to this date. He owns and resides upon the Andrew Bainter farm, consisting of 78 acres two and a half miles southeast of Amboy. Mr. and Mrs. Treadwell are communicants in the Methodist church, and he is a democrat. They have one son, Harmon, given them by his father, and born July 31, 1866.

WASHINGTON I. FISH, plow manufacturer, Amboy, is the son of Henry and Mary (Colony) Fish, and was born in New York in 1833. His father was a prominent man in his own section of the state, a doctor by profession, and represented his district in the general assembly, and held various other offices of honor and profit. Our subject received a good English education. In 1851 he began learning dentistry, and was located in its practice at Mecklenburg, Schuyler county, thirteen years. In 1864 he moved to Illinois and settled at Binghamton, where his brother, Erasmus D. Fish, was manufacturing plows. He went to work at once with the latter in the shop. In November, 1865, his brother died and left the property to him by will, and he has since kept the factory in operation. He employs hands, makes scouring plows, and does general repairing. Mr. Fish was married in 1858 to Miss Cornelia A. Ink, of Enfield, New York, who was born in 1834. Three children have blessed their union: Minnie L., William G. and Ira M. Mr. Fish is a democrat in politics.

DUER C. BADGER, stock-raiser, Amboy, son of Chester and Mary A. (Cushman) Badger, was born at Binghamton, in 1854. He received a good English education, and graduated from the Northwestern Business College, at Madison, Wisconsin, in 1875, after eighteen

months' study in that institution. He has traveled with profit within the United States, having been in nearly every state and territory, and made two visits to the Pacific coast. Mr. Badger celebrated his marriage with Miss Ann L. Wooster, daughter of A. H. Wooster, March 7, 1878. Mrs. Badger belongs to the Baptist church, and he is a Mason and a democrat. Their homestead, a valuable tract well improved, a mile northeast of Amboy, is the N.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 14, T. 20, R. 10, and is estimated to be worth \$18,000. Mr. Badger keeps about \$6,000 worth of stock.

DAVID PETTICREW, farmer, Amboy, was born in Montgomery county, Ohio, February 22, 1820. He was the eldest son by James and Elizabeth (Haines) Petticrew. Both his grandfathers did veteran service in the war of the revolution, being enrolled during the entire period and engaged in a number of battles. In 1826 Mr. Petticrew's father settled near where Niles, Michigan, now stands, and in 1837 removed with his family to Livingston county, Missouri. At a subsequent period his father made another removal to the vicinity of Fort Scott, Kansas, where he died about the beginning of the war. In 1847 the subject of this sketch returned to Michigan and resided until 1854, when in November he came to Amboy, and bought the farm where he now lives south of the city. Next spring his family came. He was married, in 1845, to Mrs. Margaret Miller (Roof). By her first marriage she had a daughter, Matilda, now Mrs. Henry Somes, of Iowa. By the last union there are seven children: Jasper, Sylvester, married Miss Maggie May; Frank, married Miss Ida Clark; Olive, Alice, wife of James Purseley; Emma, and Ella. Jasper volunteered for three months at the beginning of the war, and served at Camp Douglas; he afterward reenlisted in Co. I, 89th Ill. reg., and served to the end of the war. He was wounded in the right leg in the battle in front of Atlanta, July 22, 1864. Sylvester enlisted in Co. G, 7th U. S. Cav., Col. Custer, April 8, 1874, and was in the service nearly a year in Dakota. Frank performed military service in the regular army about the same length of time in 1875 and 1876. Mrs. Petticrew is a member of the Baptist church, and Mr. Petticrew is a prominent republican.

WILLIAM H. DRESSER, farmer, Amboy, oldest son of William and Amy (Heath) Dresser, was born in Genesee county, New York, November 7, 1830. The father was a native of Massachusetts, and the mother of Connecticut, and both were taken to new homes in Genesee county when young children. Mr. Dresser has always been a tiller of the soil. In 1852 he went to Minnesota and stayed two years. In 1854 he settled in St. Croix county, Wisconsin, and lived there until 1866; at that date he removed to Amboy, and bought his present home of eighty-two acres from Joseph Doan, an early settler of Amboy township. He

was married in 1861 to Miss Nancy Lewis, daughter of Hiel Lewis; she died in November 1865, and he was married a second time, to Miss Sallie Eaton, in 1872. They have an adopted son, George, eight years old. Mr. and Mrs. Dresser belong to the Methodist church. He has always been a voter of the republican ticket.

CARL HEGERT, miller, Amboy, eldest son of Carl Hegert, was born in Germany, January 10, 1835. He emigrated to America in 1857, was forty-two days in passage from Hamburg to New York, and arrived at Amboy January 1, 1858. He reached this country poor, his only capital being the miller's trade, and some knowledge of the use of tools, acquired mainly from his father. He could not at first get employment at his trade, so he took the first job of carpentering he could find, and did not lay down his tools for a year and a half. Then he was engaged at farming three years, and in the meantime, March 4, 1861, was married to Miss Hannah Grothe, daughter of John H. Grothe, of Ashton, who settled there from Pennsylvania in 1851. As soon as Mr. Hegert had been able to earn money enough he sent for his brothers, Louis and Theodore; and after they had been in this country five years the three jointly sent funds to bring over the rest of the family—the father, one brother, four sisters and their husbands. These are still all living. Mr. Hegert worked on the Dutcher mill while it was building, and afterward was employed as miller eight months. On June 17, 1862, he entered the employ of the Badger Brothers, as miller, at Binghamton, and continued with them until the second destruction of the mill by fire July 21, 1881. He is a republican, an Odd-Fellow, and a workman, and both he and his wife belong to the Evangelical Lutheran church. They have six children: Harriet Jane, born June 22, 1863; Sarah Ann, February 4, 1865; Carl, February 28, 1867; Freddie, May 31, 1869, died February 10, 1870; Ida, September 4, 1871; Rudolph, January 15, 1874, and Willie, November 26, 1878.

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#### LEE CENTER TOWNSHIP.

This township is described in the original survey as T. 20 N., R. 11 E. of the 4th P.M. The topography is somewhat diversified. The general lay of the land is rolling, there being very little flat land except along the creek and river bottoms.

Green river rises in Inlet Swamp, in the northeastern part of the township, and winds through it in a southwesterly direction. After leaving the swamp it flows for some distance through an open space, and then glides into the shady depths of a forest. For two miles it is hidden from the distant observer among the heavy foliage of oaks,



whose giant forms have stood for centuries like silent sentinels upon its mossy banks, and now leaping again into the sunshine and reflecting from its bosom beautiful pictures of blue sky and fleecy cloud.

The township is dotted over by numerous groves and fine farm houses. The Chicago & Rock River railroad enters at about the center of Sec. 25, and leaves at the center of Sec. 19.

Inlet Swamp extends over an area of about four square miles, in the northeastern part of the township. With this exception the land is generally good, and for agricultural purposes is inferior to none in the county.

The first settlement in the township was made by Adolphus Bliss, who came in 1834, and entered a claim on W.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of S.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 4, and N.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of N.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 9. The next settler was Corrydon R. Dewey, who came the following spring, and entered a claim on E.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of N.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 9. A little later in the same spring came Cyrenus and Cyreno Sawyer, who jointly took a claim on N.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 1. In the spring of 1836 Louis Clapp settled on N.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 8.

The first school-house in the township was erected in 1838, about eighty rods west of the present residence of Volney Bliss. Otis Timothy, of Franklin Grove, was the first schoolmaster to wield the hickory within the walls of this antiquated structure, and for his services received the princely salary of \$10 per month, and "boarded among" the pupils.

As the settlers became more numerous it was found that many of them, in fact a greater part of them, were connected with a band of desperadoes, who at that time spread terror over all of northern Illinois by their deeds of thievery and murder. One of the settlers, who resided near Inlet Grove, allowed his dwelling to be used as a place of secretion for stolen goods, and for fugitives from justice. It was believed by the early settlers that this man's dwelling was the headquarters of the gang, as those who passed his house after night frequently saw groups of horses hitched in a grove near the house, and inside the cabin could be heard boisterous laughter and "sounds of revelry by night," and ere the morning dawn the horses and riders would mysteriously disappear. At one time, every township officer was supposed to have been a member of the banditti; being in the majority they could, of course, elect their own men to office. This being the case, one can well imagine the chaotic condition of society,—each man suspicious of his neighbor. Acts of thievery were carried on with impunity, and the authorities defied. If some law-abiding citizen attempted to gain redress for his wrongs an anonymous letter was left at his door threatening his life in case he persisted in his efforts. Law-abiding citizens were entirely at the mercy of an enemy as cruel as the

blood-thirsty savage who long years before, on the western frontier, sent terror to the hearts of the pioneers. Houses were plundered, cattle and horses stolen, and driven off, stages were robbed, and for years robbery, rapine and red-handed murder held undisputed sway. Finally, honest men driven to desperation at the alarming and unceasing frequency of these occurrences, saw that speedy measures must be taken to protect their homes against the midnight marauders. A vigilance committee was organized, composed of resolute men in all parts of the county. Among the residents of Lee Center township who took an active part in the suppression of this band of outlaws were C. F. Ingalls, Rev. Luke Hitchcock, Dr. Adams, Moses Crombie, Sherman Shaw, Lewis Clapp, Benjamin Whittaker; also a Mr. Starks and sons, whose full names we are unable to ascertain. By their shrewd manipulations and persistent efforts this organization succeeded in either capturing or driving from the country most of the prominent members of the gang, so that after 1845 the citizens of Lee Center, as well as elsewhere, experienced a feeling of security.

The descendants of some of these outlaws still reside in the county, and are men of good standing in the community in which they live. This fact renders it a delicate and unpleasant task for the writer to give to the world even this brief sketch of the wrong-doings of their ancestors. But there are also men residing in this vicinity who, at the peril of their lives, aided in restoring law and order to the community, and it is but justice to them to place their names in their county's history with the credit they justly deserve. Were it not for this fact the writer would gladly leave this dark chapter unwritten, and consign these unpleasant truths to the darkness of oblivion.

#### VILLAGE OF LEE CENTER

Was laid out in 1846; is situated in the northwestern corner of the township; present population 240; is the polling-place of the township.

The first object liable to attract the attention of the visitor is the old seminary. This building was erected in 1847, at a cost of \$2,000. This school was for some years the principal educational point in this part of the state, and attracted to Lee Center many students from adjoining counties who wished to avail themselves of the excellent educational advantages the school then afforded. The branches taught were the same as are taught in our preparatory academies of the present day. A. J. Streeter, who has since that time attained a considerable prominence as a politician, and who was the greenback candidate for governor in the campaign of 1880, was at one time a student in this seminary. The school first opened in 1847. The first principal was

Hiram McChesney, a graduate of Rensselaer Institute, of Troy, New York. The average attendance at that time is estimated at 150 pupils, a large percentage of whom were from abroad. Mr. McChesney served one year and was then succeeded by H. E. Leonard, of Napierville, Illinois. Mr. Leonard after having taught two years was succeeded by the Rev. James Brewer, a native of Massachusetts and a graduate of the Jamestown college in that state. Mr. Brewer presided over the school for one year. Mr. Simeon Wright, formerly of Battle Creek, Michigan, comes next on the list of instructors. Mr. Wright took an active interest in the welfare of the school, and during the three years that he was principal the seminary passed through an era of prosperity never exceeded before or since. The attendance was very large and the school was in a flourishing condition. Mr. Wright was succeeded by Prof. Nash, a native of Massachusetts, who conducted the school until 1859, in which year he died. In the meantime other institutions of a similar character had sprung up in different points that were accessible by railroads: at Amboy a high-school building was erected in 1857; academies had also been established in Dixon and Paw Paw; so that in 1859, the attendance being very small, an act was passed authorizing its incorporation as a graded district school.

#### CHURCHES.

There are three churches in the village:

*The Methodist Episcopal* congregation was first organized in 1837, at the residence of Corrydon R. Dewey, at Inlet Grove. Their first church building was erected in 1842, in which services were held until 1858, when a larger and more commodious one was erected, which building they still occupy. The congregation now numbers thirty-four members. Trustees are John Lane, B. F. Lane and S. Trowbridge. The present stewards are S. Trowbridge, John Lane, J. H. B. Thornton, S. Thayer and Mrs. M. A. Fox. Present pastor, J. G. B. Shadford.

*The Congregational Church.*—This society was organized in 1843 at the residence of Moses Crombie, near Binghamton, in Amboy township; the congregation then consisted of eleven members. First pastor was Rev. Joseph Gardner. The building now occupied by them was erected in 1856, at a cost of \$1,500. The congregation now numbers fifty members, and is in a flourishing condition. Present pastor is the Rev. F. C. Cochran.

*The Episcopal Church.*—Congregation organized in 1855, and the church building erected in 1857, costing \$2,500. The windows of the church were presented to the congregation by Bishop Whitehouse. The present rector is Rev. N. W. Herrmans, who has presided since 1879.

The only secret organization now in existence in Lee Center is the Masonic Lodge, No. 146. This lodge was organized on July 28, 1854; charter granted on October 2 of the same year. The first officers were A. P. Stinson, worshipful master; John Gilmore, senior warden; Daniel Frost, junior warden; Simeon Wright, secretary; Lot Chadwick, treasurer. This was the second Masonic lodge organized in the county; and from the time of its organization to the present date 142 members have reached the degree of master mason. James A. Hawley, who was for two years grand master of the Grand Lodge, was here initiated into the mysteries of Masonry. The present membership of the organization is thirty-one members. Present officers are Wm. S. Frost, worshipful master; Wallace Hicks, senior warden; W. W. Depew, junior warden; B. F. Lane, secretary; Willard Salsbury, treasurer.

Shaw station, situated on the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railroad, near the center of the township, promises to be one of the prominent trading points of this part of the county. Mr. F. D. Clapp, an enterprising young merchant, is here engaged in the dry-goods and grocery business and also owns a half interest in a large and commodious elevator on the north side of the railroad track. Surrounded by an excellent farming country, this station promises to become one of the thriving villages of Lee county. Prominent among the celebrities of which this village can boast is Mrs. Eva Katharine Mink, a young authoress of growing popularity, who has recently embarked upon the sea of literature, and whose productions have created quite a sensation in the literary world.

#### ROBBERIES.

Among the many daring robberies perpetrated by the banditti in different parts of the country is the case of Mr. Haskell at Inlet Grove. On a stormy night in June, 1844, Mr. Haskell's residence was entered by masked men, one of whom afterward proved to have been the notorious Fox. Creeping silently into the bed-room occupied by Mr. Haskell and wife they succeeded in dragging a trunk containing money from under the bed. The noise caused by sliding of the trunk on the floor was drowned by the rumbling thunder, and so cunningly was the deed planned and executed that the sleepers were none the wiser until the next morning.

#### CASUALTIES.

On the evening of June 3, 1860, a terrible tornado passed through the northern portion of the township, spreading death and desolation in its path. Isaac Gage, now a resident of Lee Center village, lost two sons in this terrible storm. The loss of life and property was not so



great in this as in other portions of the county, however, but persons who were in or near its path will remember it to their latest day.

#### WAR RECORD.

In the spring of 1861, when the news came over the wires that Fort Sumter had fallen and the banner of the stars had been trampled under rebel feet, the citizens of Lee Center were among the first to send up the shout, "down with the rebellion," her hills and forests echoed to the stirring strains of the "red, white and blue" and "star spangled banner;" and when the long roll sounded scores of her patriotic sons stepped to the front and helped to swell the vast throng of troops hurrying forward in response to their country's call; many of them took their places by the side of the flag-staff and followed it to the sea. In the great battles of Stone river, Pittsburg landing, Lookout mountain, and Chickamauga, her sons bore a noble part, and many of them fell, mangled and bleeding, under the shadow of the banner they had so bravely defended. Lee Center township furnished troops for the 13th, 75th and 34th Ill. Inf., and for the 7th Ill. Cav.

#### BIOGRAPHICAL.

CHARLES F. INGALLS, farmer, Sublette, Lee county, Illinois, born in Windham county, Connecticut, in 1817. At the age of twelve went to Windsor county, Vermont, attending school for some time and afterward teaching. In the summer of 1834 came to Morgan county, Illinois, where he also taught school two years. In 1836 he in company with his brother George A. Ingalls removed to Lee county and entered claims in the southern part of Lee Center township. Mr. Ingalls was married September 6, 1838, to Miss Sarah Hawkins. At that time an Indian village stood on a part of his farm, the inhabitants of this village were Pottawatomies. Mr. Ingalls frequently found buffalo horns and carcasses in the vicinity of his farm, which, from their fresh appearance, convinced him that among the former inhabitants of the country the king of the prairie had been a conspicuous member. Mr. Ingalls is father of five children: Charles H., Ephriam F., Sarah D., Ara M. and Mary S. With the exception of the latter named daughter they are all grown and married. He has been a member of the Baptist church since 1841. In 1850 he had an attack of the gold fever and consequently took a berth in a wagon-train bound for California, and was there four years, during which time he was engaged in mining and stock raising. He returned in 1854 by way of New York city. Mr. Ingalls was left an orphan at an early age, and was cast adrift to fight life's battles single-handed and alone. By industry and enterprise he has acquired a respectable portion of the

world's goods. He has a beautiful residence, surrounded by all the luxuries necessary to make a bright and happy home. His parlor-walls are adorned by beautiful oil paintings, the handiwork of his accomplished daughters. And here in this sequestered spot, surrounded by the fruits of his toil, under the shadow of the tall oaks who have been his silent companions in his adversities and triumphs, he will spend his remaining years. Mr. Ingalls furnishes an instance of how, in this great broad land of ours, an orphan boy with nothing to rely upon but a strong will and an energetic brain may, by industry, economy and honesty acquire both wealth and honor.

LEWIS B. REX, teacher, Lee Center, born in Summit county, Ohio, in 1831, received his early education in that county, and attended one term at the Mount Vernon Seminary, after which he was three years a student in the Otterbise University, at Westerville, Ohio. He afterward taught school in different parts of the state until 1859. In that year he came west to Mendota, Illinois, and taught one year in that place; afterward taught one term in Sublette. Devoted his time entirely to teaching until 1862, when he enlisted in the 75th Ill. Inf., and served three years in the army. Was married in 1866, to Miss Electa Jane Minnerly, a native of Ohio, and is father of two children.

EDWIN MOREY, farmer, Shaw Station, born in Cortland county, New York, in 1820, came with his father in 1836, to Calhoun county, Michigan, where he resided nine years. In 1845 he removed to Cook county, Illinois. Worked three years on a canal in that county. At the end of that time he came to Lee county, and located in Lee Center township. Mr. Morey brought the second grain separator ever used in the county. Was married in April 1849, to Miss Harriet Mayo, a native of New York state. Is a member of the Masonic Lodge, No. 146, at Lee Center.

JOHN DERR, farmer, West Brooklyn, born in Columbia county, Pennsylvania, in 1820. In 1863 removed to Lee county, where by industry and careful calculation he has become possessor of a large tract of excellent land. Mr. Derr is a member of the Reformed church, with which he united in 1840. Was married in 1849, to Miss Rebecca Gersinger; is father of ten children, nine of whom are living.

MOSES CROMBIE, grain dealer, Lee Center, was born in Cheshire county, New Hampshire, in 1804. He was married in 1828, to Miss Louisa Morse, a native of the same state. In the same year he removed to Rochester, New York, where he resided nine years. In 1837 he removed to Lee county, residing near Rock river, opposite Grand Detour, where he resided three years. During that time he was engaged in millwrighting and other work of a like nature. He done the wood-work on the first plows made in Lee county. He re-

moved to the village of Lee Center in 1840. In 1841 he took the contract for building the seminary at that place. Was on the grand jury in the first court held in Lee county. Is now dealing in grain at Shaw Station, in Lee Center township.

THOMAS NICHOLSON, farmer, Lee Center, was born in England in 1826; resided there until twenty-three years of age. Came to Lee county in 1848. Bought land in China township, where he resided four years. In 1852 went to California, and was there engaged in the mining business for three years. In 1855 sailed to Australia, where he also spent three years in the mining district near Victoria. From there he sailed to England and spent several months in the home of his boyhood; while there he was married to Miss Ann Burrows. He then returned to Lee county. Located in Lee Center township in 1859. Is a member of the Episcopal church, and is also a Freemason.

ORRIN M. LEWIS, farmer, Amboy. Mr. Lewis' father, Hiel Lewis, settled in Lee county in 1842. Orrin M. was born in China township in 1847; received most of his early education in a district school in that township. Removed with his father to St. Croix county, Wisconsin, in the spring of 1855, where he resided until 1860, when they returned to Lee county, and resided in Amboy one year; then bought land about three miles northeast of Amboy, where he now resides. Mr. Lewis united with the United Brethren church at the age of twenty-five. Was married in 1871, to Miss Luella Matteson, a native of Wisconsin, who died in March 1881.

SABIN TROWBRIDGE, merchant, Lee Center, was born in Broome county, New York. He received his early education in the town of Windsor. In 1821 came to Illinois. Located in Lee Center in 1858, where until the year 1868 he earned a livelihood by tilling the soil. In that year he embarked in the dry-goods and grocery business. Was made postmaster under Grant's administration; is doing a thriving business and is a very popular merchant.

LEWIS COMPLON, stone dealer, Lee Center, was born in the southern part of France in 1823; married to Miss Julia Henry in 1860; came to Lee Center in 1861. Has four children: the elder, Emil Alfonso, born 1861; Alfred, born 1863; Theodule, born 1866; and Leona Alice, born 1876.

CHRISTOPHER WELLMAN, farmer, Lee Center, was born in New Milford, Susquehanna county, Pennsylvania, in 1821; here he received his early education; married in 1850 to Miss Amanda E. Brown, also a native of Pennsylvania; came to Lee county in 1851; resided in the village of Lee Center seven years; in 1858 removed to Knox's grove, in Sublette township, where he resided five years; then bought land in W.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of Sec. 7 in Lee Center township, where he has since resided.



Is the father of four children: Annie D., the elder child, now the wife of James Johnston, and resides in Brooklin township, born in December 1851; Levi William, born in 1853, died in 1877; Mary Ann, born April 1856; Henry H., born in 1859.

L. CYREUS SAWYER, farmer, Lee Center, Illinois, was born in Clarke county, Ohio, in 1818; came west in 1835; entered a claim in N.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 1 in Lee Center township; married in 1842. His father, Joseph Sawyer, was the first postmaster in Lee Center township, appointed during the administration of James K. Polk. Mr. Sawyer has three children. Was a democrat up to the time of the formation of the republican party; since that time has been a staunch republican; owns 240 acres of good farm land, and is surrounded by all the modern improvements and conveniences of the model Illinois farmer.

WILLARD SALSURY, carpenter, Lee Center, was born in 1820, in Susquehanna county, Pennsylvania; resided where he received his early education; came west in 1847 and bought land near Temperance Hill, in China township, where he resided two years; then removed to Lee Center. Mr. Salsbury was married in 1849, to Lydia Jane Frost, a resident of Lee Center. Is father of three children: Florence, born in 1850, died in 1854; Frederic Augustus, born in 1853; and Willard Aurthur, born 1859. Mr. Salsbury is a prominent member of the Episcopal church, with which he united at an early age.

VOLNEY BLISS, farmer and stock raiser, Lee Center, was born in Milan, Huron county, Ohio, in 1827; in 1829 removed with his father, Adolphus Bliss, to Michigan. The family remained in that state until 1834; in that year they removed to what is now Lee county, then a part of Jo Daviess. His father entered a claim on W.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of S.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 4, and N.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of N.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 9. Volney received his early education in a log school-house that stood eighty rods west of his present residence. When at home his only playmates were Indian boys who lived in a village that stood near his father's dwelling. Mr. Bliss was married in 1853, to Miss Paulina Tredwell. Deals largely in stock, and by industry and economy has become owner of a half-section of excellent land. His residence is beautifully situated in the center of a beautiful and spacious lawn, and possesses all the beauties and attractions of a model country residence. Mr. Bliss was a lieutenant in Co. D, 15th Ill. Inf.

EBENEZER WOODBRIDGE, farmer, Lee Center, was born in Wayne county, Pennsylvania, in 1814; removed from there to Tioga county, New York, where he received his early education; resided there eighteen years, then removed to Jay county, Indiana, in 1838; was married in 1840, to Eliza Ripley, a native of New York state; remained in Indiana until 1855; in that year he removed to Illinois; desiring to



locate in a place possessing good educational advantages he selected Lee Center; bought N.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 1, where he erected a residence and has since resided. Mr. Woodbrige is a prominent member of the Methodist Episcopal church, with which he united in 1840. Has four children, the elder being Sarah B., now the wife of B. I. Hitchcock, of Chicago, born in 1841; Joseph Egbert, born July 1844; Ann Eliza, born March 1848; and John Ripley, born 1851.

JOHN WEDLOCK, farmer, West Brooklyn, was born in Cornwall, England, in 1825. At twenty-three years of age he came to Lee county, and bought land in China township near Temperance Hill, where he resided eight years. He then removed to Lee Center township, where he has since resided. Was married in 1858, to Miss Mary Jane Phillips, a native of New York, who died in 1876; was again married in 1880, to Mrs. A. L. Miller. In politics he is a republican.

WARREN D. CLINK, farmer, West Brooklyn, was born in Susquehanna county, Pennsylvania, in 1835; came with his father in 1841 to Bradford township, their postoffice being at Bliss's Grove, now known as Inlet Grove, in Lee Center township; was married in 1862, to Miss Amelia Perkins. Mr. Clink has been a successful farmer and stock raiser, and has accumulated considerable property. Was a witness to the great storm that passed through the county in 1860, and after the storm had passed he assisted in giving relief to many of the sufferers.

JAMES W. WINBOLT, farmer, West Brooklyn, was born in Port Round, Canada east, in 1835; removed with his father in that year to Cuyahoga county, Ohio; received his early education in Cleveland. In 1850 he again removed with his father to Chicago, Illinois, and was there for seven years, engaged in the upholstering business on Randolph street; was married in 1864, to Miss Sarah A. Hart; united with the Methodist Episcopal church in 1877; has been a staunch republican since the organization of the party.

EPHRAIM WHITNEY, farmer, Amboy, was born in Somerset county, Maine, in 1801; removed to West Virginia in 1816; resided for a number of years in that state and then removed to Ohio; in 1845 he moved from that state to Lee county; was married in that year to Miss Mary Livingstone, a native of Ohio. Mr. Whitney is now eighty years of age, and in so feeble a state as to render his memory very poor; consequently the information the writer receives from him in regard to his past life was very meager.

JOSEPH A. HODGES, farmer, Sublette, was born in Lawrence county, Indiana, in 1825, where he remained until twenty years of age. Came to Lee county in 1845, and settled in Sublette township, where he resided until 1850. In that year he bought land in the southern part of Lee Center township, where he located and still resides. Mr.

Hodges was married in 1850, to Miss Olive Tourtillott. Is a prominent member of the Baptist church, with which he united in 1876; is also a Freemason. Mr. Hodges is quite an extensive farmer and stock raiser, and owns one of the model farms of the county.

SHERMAN SHAW, stock raiser, Lee Center, was born in Ontario county, New York, in 1811; received his early education in Erie county in the same state. In 1837 Mr. Shaw packed his earthly possessions into a wagon and started toward the setting sun. He drove from New York to Lee county in this rude conveyance, bringing two hogs, which followed after the wagon the entire distance. Mr. Shaw is a member of the Baptist church, with which he united in 1841. Was married in 1835, to Miss Malinda Dewolf. Is father of seven children, three of whom are living. Owns quite a large amount of land in different parts of the township. He is one of the landmarks of Lee county, and one of its most respected citizens. He came to the county when the great State of Illinois was almost a wilderness, and has lived to see towns, villages, churches, school-houses and beautiful dwellings rise, as if by magic, where but a few years ago nothing greeted the eye of the observer but a vast expanse of prairie, over which bounded the wild deer and the prairie wolf.

JOHN W. D. BLAKE, merchant, Lee Center, born on Staten Island in 1833, resided there until eighteen years of age, then removed to New York city, where he was for two years employed in a wholesale dry-goods house. Came to Logan county, Illinois, in 1853; remained there until June 1854, at which time he removed to Lee Center and embarked in the dry-goods and grocery business. Remained in Lee Center until 1857; in that year he removed to Niles, Michigan, remaining until 1877; then removed to Kansas and bought land, and was there engaged in farming until 1879. In that year he returned to Lee Center, where he has since been engaged in the dry-goods and grocery business.

DR. CLARK E. LOOMIS, Lee Center, was born in November 1839, at Pulaski, Oswego county, New York; and in 1845 he removed to Auburn, Cayuga county, where he lived until 1856. He came west and stopped at Chicago one year, and in October, 1857, settled at Franklin Grove in this county. The next spring he began the study of medicine with Dr. G. W. Hewitt; and on the 15th of February, 1862, graduated from Rush Medical College at Chicago. He located at once in Grand Detour, Ogle county, to practice his profession. At this place, on the 15th of July 1863, he married the only daughter of John Parkhurst, by whom he has become the father of four children, all daughters, the youngest of whom died in 1879. From Grand Detour Dr. Loomis went to the army in 1864, and served until the

close of the war as first assistant surgeon of the 115th reg. Ill. Vols. Shortly after his return home he settled with his family in Lee Center, where he has since had his residence. On February 1, 1881, he purchased from E. W. Faxon & Co. the "Amboy Journal" newspaper and job office, and has done the editorial work of the paper in connection with his practice at Lee Center.

### BROOKLYN TOWNSHIP.

Brooklyn township is described in the original survey as T. 31, R. 1 E., 3d P.M., bounded on the east by Wyoming, on the north by Viola, on the west by Lee Center and Sublette townships, and on the south by La Salle county. The present population of this township is largely German.

Standing on an eminence in the southeastern part of the township, and looking north and west, a scene of remarkable rural beauty meets the eye of the observer. Stretching away as far as the eye can reach is a vast expanse of gently rolling land, dotted here and there by handsome dwellings, waving orchards and fields of grain. Had you stood there fifty years ago, dear reader, a different scene would have met your view. Half a century ago the red man chased the deer and buffalo where now villages and churches rise as a mausoleum over the graves of his forgotten dead. Fifty years ago the long howl of the wolf and the scream of the panther echoed among the hills that now resound with the click of the reaper, the shriek of the locomotive, and the chiming of church bells. Civilization in its onward march has blotted out all traces of the red man's abode. His villages have disappeared, his light canoe is seen no more darting down the crystal streams of Illinois, and he has been driven onward toward the setting sun. His name is heard no more, unless perhaps to a village or wood-girt stream he has left as a legacy an Indian name.

The earliest settler in Brooklyn township was Zacariah Mallugin, who came in the spring of 1834 and located on what is now the N.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 4. Mr. Mallugin built a hotel on the old Chicago stage road, and was one of the first landlords in Lee county. In the spring of 1836 John Gilmore came and located on the N.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 3. In 1836 William Guthrie came and located near Mallugin's Grove.

The first school-house in the township was erected in 1838 on the farm of A. V. Christiance, about a mile northeast of his present residence. The first teacher who presided was Zacariah Mallugin. The first white child born in the township was Cornelius, son of A. V. Christiance, in 1835. The first justice of the peace was John K. Robinson, now residing in Mendota; first constable, A. V. Christiance.



## VILLAGES.

West Brooklyn, situated on the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railroad in the western part of the township, was laid out in 1873 on land owned by Messrs. O. P. Johnston, D. L. Harris and R. N. Woods. The school-house at that place was erected in 1874, at a cost of \$1,200. First teacher, F. M. Yocum. For the past two years the school has been under the supervision of Prof. M. M. Young, a teacher of marked ability, under whose care the school is in a prosperous condition.

There are two churches in West Brooklyn, a Roman Catholic and one Methodist Episcopal church. The latter named society was organized in 1878, and the building occupied by them was erected in the same year. The first pastor was the Rev. C. H. Hoffman; present one is the Rev. B. H. Dickens, a young gentleman who is just beginning his labors in the field of Christianity, and for whom we predict a life of usefulness. Membership of this organization, forty-nine.

Compton was laid out in 1873 upon land owned by Joel Compton, from whom the village derived its name. It is situated on the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railroad in the eastern part of the township. Compton has one church, the Methodist Episcopal, which society was organized in 1837 at the residence of Zachariah Mallugin. Their first pastor was the Rev. Stephen R. Beggs. Until about the year 1850 they held services in a school-house at Mallugin's Grove. The building now occupied by the society was erected in 1860 in that village and was removed from there to Compton. The membership of this organization is forty; present pastor, B. H. Dickens.

Masonic Lodge, No. 282, was organized at the residence of O. P. Johnston in 1858. The first officers were: Master, John C. Corbus; Senior Warden, John Gilmore; Junior Warden, S. H. Finley; Senior Deacon, Jonathan Hyde; Junior Deacon, O. P. Johnston; Secretary, J. R. Bisbee; Treasurer, Wm. Guthrie; Tyler, Robert Ritchie. The present officers are: Worshipful Master, Theodore Doty; Senior Warden, W. W. Gilmore; Junior Warden, David Holdren; Senior Deacon, W. C. Holdren; Junior Deacon, S. W. Carnahan; Secretary, A. Bradshaw; Tyler, Edwin Ellsworth; Senior Steward, Abram Bennett; Junior Steward, Andrew Compton.

Carnahan station is situated on an eminence about equidistant between West Brooklyn and Compton; is the result of the labors of A. J. Carnahan. The expense of the side-track, station-house, and other improvements, were all borne by him. And whatever of convenience the neighbors in the community may enjoy in the future must be credited to his determination. When the project of the Canada Southern railroad was started he entered into it with enthusiasm and received assurances of having a station located on his farm. To get



possession of certain lands, it is said, the company located the station at Compton. But Mr. Carnahan, nothing daunted by this defeat, laid his claim before the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad Company when they became owners of the road. After some effort on his part a station was granted him, which was to be made at his own expense.

In July, 1874, a man named Layden, employed as agent for Payne, of Ashton, collected all the money he could belonging to the latter named gentleman, which together with notes he had taken in his own name amounted to about \$7,000. With this amount of lucre in his possession he absconded.

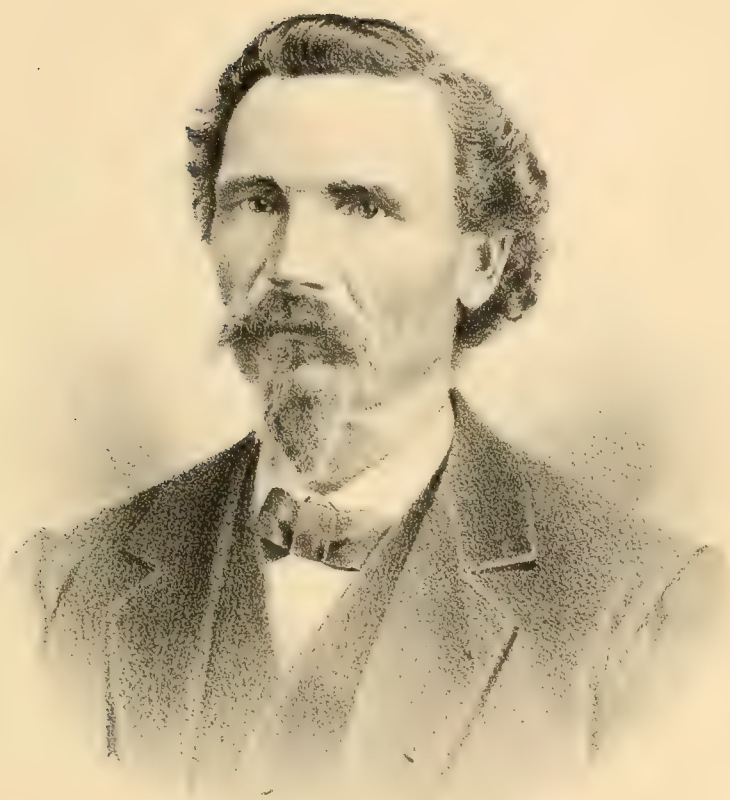
In February, 1874, Leroy Blanchard, while a guest at the residence of Mr. Van Cisco at Mallugin's Grove, arose very early one morning and departed, taking with him fifty-five dollars belonging to Mr. Cisco, who on missing the money brought the telegraph into requisition and the thief was captured at Shabbona and brought to Dixon, where he was placed in custody.

#### WAR RECORD.

In sending troops to aid in the suppression of the rebellion, Brooklyn was not behind her sister townships. She was prompt in responding to her country's call. Scarcely had the echoes of the first rebellious cannon-shot died away, when her patriotic people, filled with indignation at this insult to their country's flag, joined in the universal cry, "the Union forever." In 1861, when the great yawning chasm opened between the north and south, upon one side of which was heard the rumbling of cannon and the mighty tread of armies marching under the old banner of the stars, keeping step to the strains of "Yankee Doodle" and "Hail Columbia," and upon the other mighty hosts were advancing to the conflict under the flag of secession—in this, the darkest hour in our nation's history, the citizens of Brooklyn township did their part toward administering a terrible rebuke to southern arrogance and treason. Her sons took part in most of the great struggles of the war, and some of them still lie by the shores of the Atlantic, whose waves sing a wild requiem by their lonely graves.

#### BIOGRAPHICAL.

JAMES P. JOHNSTON, West Brooklyn, born in Brooklyn township, Lee county, in 1851, is a son of O. P. Johnston, jr., who was one of the pioneer settlers in the township. Received most of his early education in Lee county. In 1867 he attended two terms at Douglas University, in Chicago. In 1868 he embarked in the drug business, on the corner of State and Twenty-second streets, in that city. In 1869 he returned again to Lee county, where he has since been engaged in



Yours Truly  
Volney Bliss



farming and stock raising. He was married in 1873, to Miss Annie D. Wellman, a native of Pennsylvania.

DANIEL MILLER, Mendota, was born in Somerset county, Pennsylvania, in 1822, where he resided until fourteen years of age. In 1836 he went to Wayne county, Ohio, where he resided four years, after which he returned to Pennsylvania and remained until 1844, again returned to Wayne county, Ohio, and after living there eleven years came to Lee county and bought land in the N.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 33, Brooklyn township. In 1873 was elected supervisor of Brooklyn township, which office he has held since that time. He was married in 1843, to Miss Elizabeth Lewis, a native of Pennsylvania, and who died in 1848. He was again married in 1869, to Miss Leah Gittinger, also a native of Pennsylvania. He is father of twelve children, ten of whom are living.

HALSEY H. MILLER, Compton, was born in Fredericktown, Knox county, Ohio, May 8, 1847. In 1851 he moved from there with his father, Harmon R. Miller. He received his early education at Mount Gilead, Ohio. In 1856 he came with his father's family to La Salle county. In 1861 he went to Linden, where he attended school until 1863. In April of that year he enlisted in Co. K, 38th Ill. Vols., which regiment was stationed on the frontiers of Kansas and Missouri. He was discharged in October 1864, when he returned home and worked on his father's farm until 1868. In that year he began to work for the Fox River Horse Collar Company, with whom he was engaged until 1870. In June, 1871, he entered the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy office at Dayton, as student operator, and in the latter part of the same year took charge of the office at Yorkville, Illinois, as operator and ticket agent. He remained there six weeks, after which he took charge of the depot at Fox station. He remained in this place until 1872, when he came to Compton, where he for a time constituted the entire population. Mr. Miller was the first police magistrate in the village, which office he still holds, and is also local editor of the "Compton Record." He was married in 1870, to Rhody I. Dominy, a native of La Salle county.

SAMUEL P. FAIRCHILDS, was born in Queensbury, Warren county, New York, in 1801. In 1836 he moved to Canada, where he was for eighteen years engaged in farming and stock raising. In 1854 he came to Lee county and bought land in N.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 5, where he has since resided. Mr. Fairchild was married in 1825, to Miss Wilmot Ogden, a native of New York state. He is father of ten children, six of whom are living. Four of his sons enlisted in the Union army during the rebellion. Samuel enlisted in May 1861, in Co. C, 13th Ill. Inf.; David O. enlisted in the 13th Ill. Inf., Co. C; Ogden enlisted in the 13th Ill.; Lewis enlisted in August 1862, in Co. K, 76th Ill. Inf.



A. V. CHRISTIANCE, Compton, was born in Schenectady county, New York, in 1808. In 1817 he moved with his father, Evert Christiance, to the city of Schenectady. Mr. Christiance received most of his early education in this city, and at an early age was apprenticed to a wagon-maker, and served six and a half years' apprenticeship. He resided in Schenectady until 1829. In that year he came west to visit his brother. He returned in the same year and bought out the business of his former employer, which he carried on about three years. By this time his health, which had been very poor, began to grow worse, and his physician advised him to come west, and he accordingly moved to Lee county in 1835, and bought land in N.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  and part of the N.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 3 in Brooklyn township. At that time the surrounding forests abounded in game of all kinds, and there were but two other settlers in the township. Roving bands of Indians frequently passed his cabin, and he became quite familiar with the old Indian chief Shabbona, who was an occasional visitor at his home. He frequently had as guests the notorious Fox and Birch, and also the Mormon prophet, Jo Smith. Mr. Christiance is father of sixteen children, five of whom are living. Four of his sons responded to their country's call and engaged in the great struggle against disunion and slavery. James enlisted in the 13th Ill. Inf., and George W., William and Cornelius enlisted in Cheney's battery. The latter-named son was the first white child born in Brooklyn township. Mr. Christiance is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, with which he united in 1870; is also a member of Masonic Lodge No. 282, at Compton. He is one of the landmarks in Brooklyn township, and has been closely identified with its history from its organization to the present day.

ALEXANDER GILMORE, Compton, was born in the city of New York, in 1826. His father, John Gilmore, removed to Michigan in 1830; resided in that state until June 1835, when he removed to Lee county and bought a claim from Zachariah Mallugin in N.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 2. Alexander received most of his education in an old log school-house that stood a short distance north of the cemetery at Mallugin's Grove. Mr. Gilmore was married in 1855, to Miss Mary L. Frost, a native of Maine. His first wife died in 1865, and his next choice was Miss Eliza Fisk. He is father of ten children, eight of whom are living; is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, with which he united in 1845. Mr. Gilmore is one of the oldest settlers in Lee county and is also one of her most respected citizens.

OLIVER P. JOHNSTON, West Brooklyn, was born in Erie county, New York, in 1812. In 1821 he removed with his father, Oliver Johnston, to Sangamon county, Illinois, six miles from Springfield, which at that time consisted of two stores and three dwellings. They

remained there four years, and then removed to Logan county, where they resided eight years. At the end of that time Oliver P. removed to La Salle county and remained one year and then went to De Kalb county. In 1838 he came to Lee county and took a claim in S.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of N.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 5, in Brooklyn township. He helped erect the first dwelling built in Wyoming township. Mr. Johnston was quite well acquainted with the Indian chief Shabbona, whose name is familiar to the early settlers of northern Illinois. He was at different times strongly urged to join the banditti who infested the country in early days, but on each occasion respectfully declined. He kept a hotel in Mallugin's Grove for twenty years, and during that time had many unpleasant experiences incident to hotel-keeping in early days. Mr. Johnston was married in 1834, to Miss Elizabeth Ross, a native of Virginia, and is father of six children. He has been one of the most successful farmers in Lee county and is now the possessor of over two thousand acres of land, the fruits of many years of economy, hardship and toil.

BENJAMIN F. HOLDREN, wagon-maker, Compton, was born in Columbia county, Pennsylvania, in 1823. He resided in that state until he was nineteen years of age. In the fall of 1841 he came to Milwaukee, Wisconsin; at that time the population of that city numbered about 500 souls. He remained there until the following spring, when he together with two companions walked to Chicago, a distance of ninety miles. While in Chicago he worked in the first sash and blind factory erected in the city, which stood on South Water street. In 1850 he began working at carpentering in the capacity of contractor, and continued until 1862, when he enlisted in the 89th Ill. Inf., which regiment took part in the great battles of Stone River, Mission Ridge, and others equally severe, and returned to the north crowned with the laurels of a grateful nation. Mr. Holdren was discharged in April 1864, and returned to Mallugin's Grove and began working at wagon-making, which business he has since followed. He was married in 1848, to Miss Zurich Cowen, a native of New Hampshire.

JOHN F. CLAPP, West Brooklyn, was born in Hampshire county, Massachusetts, in 1835. He resided there until he was nineteen years of age. In 1854 he came to Bureau county, Illinois, and engaged in the grain business with his uncle, Caleb Cook. In 1857 he came to Lee county, and bought land in Amboy township. In 1859 he sold his property in Lee county and returned to Bureau county, where he remained two years. At the end of that time he bought land in the S.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 16, in Brooklyn township, and since that time has been one of the most successful farmers and stock raisers of Lee county. Mr. Clapp was married in 1857, to Miss Sarah S. Smith, a native of New York

state. He is the father of six children, four of whom are living. He is a prominent member of the Methodist Episcopal church, with which he united in 1867. In politics he is a republican.

JOHN W. DORN, blacksmith, Compton, was born June 14, 1816, in Morris county, New Jersey, where he resided until he was twelve years of age, when he went to Chemung county, New York, where he remained with his father until he was twenty-one years of age. At the age of fifteen Mr. Dorn commenced working at the blacksmith trade. In September, 1837, he came to Illinois and located near Marseilles, La Salle county, where he farmed for two years. At the end of that time he built a shop three miles north of La Salle, and worked at his trade there until 1857. In that year he came to Willow Creek township, and resided there until 1862, when he located in Mallugin's Grove, where he has since resided. He was first married in 1836, to Miss Elizabeth Reeser, who died in 1838. He married again in the fall of the same year, to Miss Lovisa Rood. His second wife died in 1850. He was again married in September 1850, to Elvira Parker, a native of Indiana. He is the father of five children, three of whom are living. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, with which he united in 1837. Although Mr. Dorn is sixty-five years of age he is still hale and hearty, and swings a hammer as dexterously as he did in the palmiest days of his youth.

JAMES P. ANGLEMIER, furniture dealer, Compton, was born in Monroe county, Pennsylvania, in 1848. At the age of twenty-two he came to Willow Creek township, Lee county, where he worked at the carpenter trade until 1879, when he embarked in the furniture business at Compton, where he is doing a flourishing business, and is one of the most popular business men in the village. Mr. Anglemier was married in 1875, to Miss Elizabeth Kettley, a native of Lee county.

SAMUEL W. CARNAHAN, farmer, Compton, was born in Montour county, Pennsylvania, in 1840. He came with his father, Samuel Carnahan, to Lee county in 1848. His father bought land in N.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 10, Brooklyn township. Mr. Carnahan received most of his early education in Lee county. He remained at home with his father until twenty-five years of age, and then went to farming for himself. His father took quite a prominent part in political and other public affairs while living, and died leaving a large circle of friends and acquaintances to mourn his loss. Samuel W. is a member of Masonic lodge No. 282, at Compton, of which he has been a prominent member for some years. He was married in 1865, to Miss Celestia Jones, a native of New Jersey, and is the father of four children.

THOMAS D. YOCUM, farmer, West Brooklyn, was born in Columbia county, Pennsylvania, in 1819. He resided in that state until 1855,

when he came west and located in Sublette township, where he remained until 1860. In that year he bought land in N.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 6, in Brooklyn township, upon which he has since resided. Mr. Yocum was married in August 1843, to Miss Lena Lemon, a native of Pennsylvania, who died in 1845. He was again married in 1849, to Miss Rachael Steadman, also a native of Pennsylvania. His second wife died in 1878. Mr. Yocum is the father of two children: Francis M., born March 1851, and Lena Ellen, December 14, 1856. In religion Mr. Yocum is a Universalist, and in politics a democrat.

SAMUEL ARGRAVES, farmer, Compton, was born in Lancashire, England, in 1825. His parents came to America when he was four years of age, and located in Essex county, New York, where they remained six years. In this country Mr. Argraves received his early education. In 1835 the family removed to Canada West and remained there until Samuel was twenty-one years of age. Mr. Argraves then started out in life for himself. He came to Lee county in 1845 and hired out by the month on a farm in Viola township and worked one year in this way. In 1846 he entered a claim in S.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 25, in that township, erected a dwelling on it, and began the great battle of life single-handed and alone. The first furniture he had in his house was mostly constructed by his own hands. He says that he and his wife were as happy in their rude little home as though it had been a marble palace. In 1850 Mr. Argraves was stricken with the "gold fever" and accordingly set out for California by wagon. Soon after reaching "the land of promise" he embarked in the mining business, from which he realized enough to give him a fair start in the world. He spent two years in that state and then returned home by way of New Orleans. While absent his wife became very destitute, but owing to the kindness of Mr. John Gilmore and William Guthrie she was well supplied with the necessities of life until Mr. Argraves' return, when they were repaid for their kind deeds, for which he still feels very grateful. Mr. Argraves enlisted in 1865 in Co. I, 15th Ill. Inf., and was in the service eight months. He was married in 1845, to Miss Martha Miller, a native of Canada West, and is the father of four children.

MINOR M. AVERY, merchant, Compton, was born in Wayne county, Pennsylvania, in 1845. He resided there until nine years of age, when he removed with his father to Lee county. Mr. Avery received most of his education in Lee county, where he resided until 1865. In that year he enlisted in Co. I, 15th Ill. Inf., which regiment went to New York city, thence to Morehead city, North Carolina, and finally joined Sherman's army at Goldsboro. At Raleigh Mr. Avery witnessed the surrender of Johnston's army. He was married in 1867, to Miss



Angelina Argraves, a native of Lee county. Mr. Avery has been engaged in the dry-goods and grocery business in Compton since the laying out of the village. He is a man of broad, liberal views upon all subjects, public-spirited and enterprising, a desirable citizen, a popular merchant, and we predict for him a bright and prosperous future.

ANDREW J. CARNAHAN, merchant, West Brooklyn, was born in 1816, in Columbia county, Pennsylvania. He resided in that county until 1816. He received his education at the Danville College. Mr. Carnahan came to Lee county in 1850 and bought land on which Carnahan station now stands. He was engaged in farming until 1872. Through his influence a railroad station was established on his land, where he built an elevator, flouring-mill, saw-mill, and store building. Since that time he has done an extensive business in dry-goods, grain and stock. Mr. Carnahan has been justice of the peace for sixteen years. He was married in 1834, to Miss Elizabeth Holden, also a native of Pennsylvania. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. He is the father of nine children, six of whom are living.

LEWIS COMPTON, farmer, Compton, was born in Luzerne county, Pennsylvania, in 1847, where he resided until nine years of age. In March, 1856, he came with his father's family to Lee county, where he followed the occupation of farming until 1863, when he enlisted in Co. L, 17th Ill. Cav., and served until June 1864, at which date he was discharged. He was married in 1866, to Laura L. Covey. He is father of five children.

HIRAM CARNAHAN, physician, Compton, was born June 10, 1830, in Columbia county, Pennsylvania, where he resided until eighteen years of age, when he came with his father's family to Lee county. In 1848 his father, Samuel Carnahan, bought land in S.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  and N.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of S.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 10, and afterward the remainder of the S.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of that section. The doctor resided with his father until 1855, in which year he went to Chicago and attended two terms in the Rush Medical College. In 1857 he was married to Miss Sarah Christianee, and shortly afterward, in the same year, moved to Floyd county, Iowa, where he practiced two years. In the fall of 1859 he brought his family to Lee county, and again returned to Chicago, resumed his studies in the Rush Medical College, and graduated under the auspices of that institution on February 16, 1860. In that year he commenced practicing in Mallugin's Grove, where he remained until 1875, when he moved to Compton, where he has since resided. The doctor is a staunch republican and has taken quite an active part in politics. He is the father of nine children, four of whom are living.

DAVID HOLDREN, farmer, Compton, was born in Columbia county, Pennsylvania, in 1827. He learned the carpenter trade in that county,

and came to Chicago in 1848, bringing a kit of carpenter's tools. While in Chicago Mr. Holdren worked on the old Tremont House that was destroyed in the great fire. At that time there were very few buildings west of the river. He worked in Chicago three months, and then went to Rockford, Illinois, and remained there two years, at the end of which time he returned to Pennsylvania, and was married to Miss Lucretia McCoy. He remained in Pennsylvania until 1863. In that year he came to Lee county. In 1865 he enlisted in the 15th Ill. Inf., and served until the close of the war. He then returned home and worked at his trade until 1876. In that year he went on a farm which he had bought in 1869. Since 1876 he has been engaged in farming and stock raising. He is a member of Masonic lodge No. 282.

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### NELSON TOWNSHIP.

This township is bounded on the east by South Dixon, on the south by Harmon, on the north and west by Rock river and Whitesides county. The soil is sandy and not so productive as in some other portions of the county, and consequently was not settled as early. The principal products are corn, wheat, oats, barley and rye. The land is nearly all tillable and devoted to grain raising. The farmers of Nelson do not devote as much of their attention to grazing and stock raising as do the people in some portions of the county. Her people are a quiet, well-to-do class of farmers, and intelligent, enterprising and patriotic. Politically the township is republican, yet as a rule her citizens are rather independent, and do not so far forget the welfare of the common country as to allow party prejudice to cause them to overlook errors and corruption simply because they exist in their own party. They do not believe in permitting a scoundrel to evade justice simply because he bears a party trade-mark. Neither do they believe that patriotism is confined to party lines. They are broad-minded enough to see that a man whose lot is cast in America, who has a home on her soil, whose father and mother lie side by side under the sod made free by patriotic blood, whose children are taught to lisp the names of Washington and Lincoln, regardless of his political opinion, is as deeply interested in the common welfare of the nation as themselves.

The earliest settler in Nelson township was Luther Stone, who came in 1836 from Erie county, New York, and located on Sec. 29. Burrel and Samuel Stone, who are still residents of the township, are sons of Luther, and shared with their father the dangers and hardships of pioneer life. In the winter of 1837 Burrel, his brother Samuel, and their father, were getting home a supply of wood from

Scott's Grove, eight miles south of Burrel's present residence. During the father's absence with a load of wood a snowstorm of unusual severity came on. Alone in the timber, without shelter or food, the boys became alarmed and saw that something must be done or they would perish in the storm. The snow came down in such quantities as to darken the air. The wind roared through the leafless branches of the forest and night was coming on. With this gloomy prospect, together with that of passing the night in the forest, filled their hearts with dismay, and they set out in a westerly direction, hoping to find a deserted cabin that stood about two miles distant. Fortunately, after a long search, they came in view of the shanty, which, although in a very dilapidated condition, afforded them a shelter from the merciless storm. With the aid of some tow they succeeded in making a fire with their guns, and for three days were cooped up in that gloomy prison, subsisting during their imprisonment on a coon they had shot in the forest. At the end of that time the storm subsided, so that they were enabled to make their way home. At another time, in the winter of 1842, Burrel was driving home from Dixon. A few scattering flakes of snow were falling when he started, which soon developed into a howling blizzard. Owing to the density of the falling snow darkness came on earlier than usual, and Burrel lost his way in the blinding storm. Knowing that if he did not keep himself and horses in motion death would be certain, he kept the horses going around in a circle until day-break, when he found to his surprise that he was within a short distance of home.

The first supervisor of the township was Abner Coggswell. The first justices of the peace were Daniel Uhl and George Jones; first assessor, Michael Trontman; first collector, R. Henry Heaton, all of whom were elected in 1860, in which year the town was organized.

When the rebellion broke out Nelson township furnished her quota of troops without a draft, and deserves great credit for the prompt manner in which she responded to the call of her country. She furnished troops for the 13th, 34th and 75th Ill. regiments. The only church in the township is Zion's Evangelical Lutheran, which society was organized February 23, 1867, with 58 members. The first elders were Conrad Hartman and Daniel Uhl; deacons, Lewis F. Long, Gerhart Missman. The first pastor was Rev. A. A. Trimper; the second, Ephraim Miller, who was made pastor in September 1871, and served until February 20, 1875. The next pastor was the Rev. J. P. Sanderson, who was elected pastor March 29, 1875, and served until October 1877. Rev. J. W. Henderson took charge of the congregation November 1, 1877, and served until April 1, 1879. A. J. B. Kast became pastor June 15, 1877, and still presides.

The church building now occupied by the congregation was erected in 1880, at a cost of \$3,500, on the land of Conrad Hartman. The present elders are Thomas Clayton and Jacob Harden, and the deacons are Gerhart Missman and S. G. Cook.

#### BIOGRAPHICAL.

ABNER COGGSWELL, farmer, Nelson station, son of John and Rebecca Coggsowell, was born in Oneida county, New York, where he resided with his parents until 1843. In that year he came to Lee county and bought land in Sec. 30, Nelson township. Mr. Coggsowell served as road commissioner four years, when Nelson and South and East Dixon townships were one, and was the first supervisor of Nelson township. He was married June 10, 1838, to Miss Phalinda Hawley, who died in 1860. He was again married in October 1861, to Mrs. Rachel Ferguson, a native of New York state. Politically he is a republican, with which party he united in its infancy.

URIAH GROOVER, farmer, Dixon, son of George and Pheba Groover, was born in Columbia county, Pennsylvania, in 1818. When Uriah was nine years of age his father, with his family, removed to Berks county, where they remained nine years. In 1836 the family removed to Amherst county, Virginia. After remaining here one year Uriah returned to Columbia county and apprenticed to a carpenter. After working two years as an apprentice he went to Danville, Montour county, where he worked at his trade until the spring of 1854. In that year he came to Dixon, where he again worked at his trade for some time. In 1857 he bought land in Dixon township, which he sold in 1865 and bought in Sec. 26, Nelson township. In 1862 his son Joseph enlisted in Co. A, 75th Ill. Inf. In 1864 his son James enlisted in the 12th Ill. Cav. and started to join his regiment. He was taken suddenly ill at Vicksburg and died in the hospital in November following. Mr. Groover was married in 1842, to Miss Catharine Ritzs, also a native of Columbia county. His first wife, Catharine, died in December, 1862, and in 1868 he was again married, to Elizabeth Kelly. He is the father of twelve children, nine of whom are living. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, with which he united in 1863.

WILLIAM COVERT, farmer, Dixon, was born in Seneca county, New York, May 27, 1824, where he resided until fourteen years of age, when he went to Cuyahoga county, Ohio, and remained about four years. At the end of that time he returned to Seneca county and remained there until 1858. In that year he came west and located in McHenry county, Illinois, where he resided five years. He then removed to Cook county, where he remained a short time, after which he removed to Lee county and bought land in S.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of S.E.  $\frac{1}{2}$  Sec. 26, where he



has since resided. He was married in 1849, to Miss Mary Geer, a native of Pennsylvania. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, with which he united in 1856.

CHARLES F. HUBBARD, farmer, Dixon, son of Ruggles and Catherine Hubbard, was born in New York city, in 1817. He resided with his parents in that city till nineteen years of age. He received his early education in the city, and in 1829 was sent to Bennington, Vermont, where he attended school three years, and was a class-mate of Gen. Robert Marcy and Gov. Cornell. After having completed his education he returned to the city and was engaged as clerk for an importing merchant. In 1837 he left New York for the Rocky mountains, in company with his brother-in-law, William Graham. They came from New York to Pittsburgh by canal, thence down the Ohio by steamboat to Cairo, and up the Mississippi to St. Louis, which at that time was but a struggling village in the heart of the great frontier. On their arrival at that place they found that the Santeffe wagon train had departed several days before, and not caring to embark alone on a journey so full of peril, they abandoned the idea and took a boat for Galena. After remaining here a short time they went across the country to Dixon, for the purpose of spending a few days in hunting. This country at that time he describes as being a paradise, the clear, sparkling river abounding in fish. The green hills adorned with flowers of every hue formed a scene well calculated to fascinate the young travelers just out of the city, with its great, gloomy buildings and dusty streets. Mr. Hubbard, being desirous of making his home in this beautiful land of flowers, purchased a claim from John Dixon in what is now the N.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 11, in Nelson township, where he cast his lot. His present residence is situated on a bluff overlooking the river, on whose banks he expects to pass the remainder of his life. Among all the many pioneers of Lee county whom the writer has interviewed we have not found one more interesting in conversation than Mr. Hubbard. He is a man of more than ordinary intelligence, broad-minded and liberal in his views, and possesses the respect of all who know him. He was married in 1844, to Miss Helen Graham, also a native of New York city. He is father of five children, one son and four daughters.

SAMUEL STONE, Rock Falls. Luther Stone, father of Samuel, was born in Massachusetts in 1795. He was married in 1817, to Miss Tamina Warren. In 1836 he came to Lee county and located on the banks of Rock river, in what is now Nelson township. Here he erected a large log house, over which he presided in the capacity of landlord, keeping travelers, which were then becoming quite numerous. The names of Luther Stone's children are as follows: Willard, born

in New York, February 4, 1819; married July 10, 1840; died February 13, 1841. Henry B., born January 12, 1821, in New York state; married April 27, 1851. Samuel, born December 18, 1824, in New York state; married November 3, 1843. Alonzo Stone, born March 1, 1827; died at Dixon, October 9, 1847. Savina, born January 21, 1830; married March 10, 1853. Albert Stone, born March 11, 1834. Samuel Stone is one of the oldest residents in Nelson township, and his name is closely interwoven with her early history. In 1879 a large barn belonging to him, and containing fifty tons of hay and all of his machinery, was burned to the ground.

JACOB HARDEN, farmer, son of George and Hester Harden, was born in Somerset county, Pennsylvania, within forty rods of Mason and Dixon's line, where he remained with his father's family until twelve years of age, when they moved to Alleghany county, Maryland. At the age of twenty-nine Jacob returned to Somerset county, Pennsylvania, and remained three years. He then came west and located in Lee county, purchasing land S.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 23 in Nelson township. In 1880 Mr. Harden was elected supervisor of the township, and reelected in 1881. He is a member of the Lutheran church, with which he united at an early age. In politics he is a democrat.

LEWIS F. LONG, Nelson Station, son of Henry and Elizabeth Long, born in Somerset county, Pennsylvania, in 1831, where he remained until twenty-five years of age. In 1856 he came to Lee county and located in Nelson township. In 1865 he bought land in E.  $\frac{1}{2}$  N.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 28; since that time he has been engaged in farming and stock-raising. In 1869 Mr. Long was elected supervisor of the township, and was again elected in 1870. He was married in 1853, to Miss Sevilla Haas, a native of Pennsylvania, and is father of seven children. Mr. Long united with the Lutheran church in 1865, and since that time has been a prominent member. In politics he is a republican.

ALBERT HUBBARD, Dixon, farmer, son of Walter and Lucinda Hubbard, was born in Berkshire county, Massachusetts, in 1824, where he resided until thirty years of age. His grandfather, Judd Hubbard, was one of the pioneer settlers of Berkshire county, having located there prior to 1800. His father was one of the militia ordered to Boston in 1814 to repel an expected invasion. At the age of thirty years Albert came to Lee county and located in Nelson township; in 1879 was elected justice of the peace, which office he held two years; married in 1850, to Miss Hanna Catharine Hunter, also a native of Berkshire county; is father of five children, four of whom are living. Politically Mr. Hubbard is a republican, having joined the party in its infancy.

His brother Alonzo, who came west with him, went to Colorado in 1874, and has become quite wealthy.

ELIJAH WALKER, DIXON, son of Peter P. H. and Sarah Walker, was born in Somerset county, Pennsylvania, in 1832, where he remained until twenty-seven years of age; in 1860 came to Lee county and bought land in N.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 25; married in 1852, to Miss Joanna Fricca, a native of Hanover, Germany, and is father of three children. Mr. Walker started out in the world with nothing, and by long years of persistent toil has accumulated a large amount of property, and is one of the model farmers of Lee county. He is in his political belief a democrat, yet is not so narrow in his opinions as to overlook wrongs in misdoings in his party, and does not hesitate to denounce such. Mr. Walker is kind and courteous among his neighbors. Liberal in his views on all questions, yet firm in his convictions, he is a citizen of merit and an ornament to the community in which he resides.

### HARMON TOWNSHIP.

This township is bounded on the south by Hamilton, on the east by Marion, on the north by Nelson, and on the west by Whitesides county. As yet the land is not as productive as in some parts of the county, being very flat and inclined to be marshy, but as drains are being made in all parts of the township it is rapidly improving, and when thoroughly drained will be as good as the average. Owing to the sterility of the soil the township is sparsely settled, the present population not being more than about six hundred. The inhabitants are largely Irish.

In early times, owing to the numerous swamps and ponds, ducks and geese were very plentiful, and hunting was a favorite pastime among the early settlers. The first settler was John D. Rosebrook, who purchased a large tract of land in the eastern part of the township. Among the settlers who came soon after Mr. Rosebrook were Louis Hullinger, Thomas Sutton, John L. Porter and James Porter, jr. The first school-house in the township was built on Sec. 23 in 1856. The first school was held at the residence of Mrs. Tuttle and conducted by her daughter, Vienna Tuttle.

The first supervisor of the township was Mitchell Rosebrook.

The village of Harmon, situated on the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railroad, was laid out in 1871, on land owned by A. Kenyon. The present population of the village is about three hundred. Surrounded by a wide scope of country, which, owing to the industry of its enterprising citizens, is rapidly improving, Harmon promises to become one of the thriving inland villages of Lee county. It has two

extensive elevators, which receive large quantities of grain, three dry-goods and grocery stores, one jewelry store, three blacksmith shops, one livery stable and one hotel, one creamery and three churches, the Methodist Episcopal, Wesleyan Methodist and Catholic.

The Wesleyan Methodist church was accepted by the Illinois conference September 20, 1862. The first pastor of this organization was the Rev. J. Pinkney; Secretary, L. Wakeman; the present pastors are the Rev. J. P. Spalding and William Clalworthy. The present membership is sixty-four. The trustees are Levi Jennes, W. L. Smith, A. Berlin.

The Methodist Episcopal society was organized in 1871. The first pastor was the Rev. Rice, whose initials the writer was unable to ascertain. The first class-leader was James Backus; the present pastor is the Rev. Edward Breen, who took charge in October 1879. In March, 1881, the following-named persons were elected as trustees for the purpose of building a church: A. B. Smith, W. E. Mechem, J. U. Fry, W. H. Kline, Daniel Swartz.

SILAS ACKERT, Harmon, son of Edward and Sarah Ackert, was born in Ulster county, New York, in 1836, where he resided until nineteen years of age; he then came to Marion township, Lee county, and was there engaged in farming. After remaining there nine years he removed to Amboy and remained one year, after which he went to Woosung, Ogle county, where he worked at his trade (blacksmithing) for six years. At the end of this time he removed to Harmon township. In 1879 he was elected supervisor of the township, and reelected in 1880. Is a member of the Baptist church, with which he united in 1869. Married in 1865, to Miss Mary J. Rosebrook, a native of New Hampshire. Is father of one child. Politically Mr. Ackert is an independent, owing no allegiance to any faction or party.

GEORGE W. HILL, merchant, Harmon, son of George and Margaret Hill, was born in Fall River, Massachusetts, in 1848. His father was here engaged in manufacturing soap. When George was fifteen years of age his father, with his family, removed to Monongahela City, where they remained three years; at the end of that time George went to Frostburg, Maryland, and remained two years, and then came to Lee county, where he farmed and worked at carpentering until April 1877, when he engaged in the dry-goods and grocery business. He was also appointed postmaster in that year in the village of Harmon. Mr. Hill was married in 1871, to Miss Gula E. Porter, daughter of James Porter, jr., one of the early settlers of Harmon township. Mr. Hill started in business with but a few hundred dollars of borrowed capital, and by close attention to business has placed himself in good circumstances. Mr. Hill is a young man of enterprise and public spirit, and



always enters with enthusiasm into any movement calculated to advance the interests of the village or benefit the community.

JOHN T. SWAN, Harmon, son of James G. and Susan Swan, was born in Bureau county, Illinois, in 1852. He remained there until twenty years of age, when he went to Peru, Illinois, and attended high school one year; at the end of that time he came to Harmon and engaged in the dry-goods and grocery business. Mr. Swan is one of the many prosperous merchants of Lee county. Was married in 1875, to Miss Clara Shelhamer, a native of Lee county.

THOMAS SUTTON, farmer, Harmon, son of Joseph and Hanna Sutton, was born on Wheeling Creek, Virginia, in 1820. At the age of five years his father, with his family, moved to a point about fifteen miles north of Zanesville, Ohio, where he resided two years; from there they went to Jackson county, Ohio, and remained until Thomas was seventeen. At this time they sold their farm and located in Hocking county, Ohio, and remained until 1854. In that year they removed to Lee county and bought land in the S.  $\frac{1}{2}$  Sec. 25, Harmon township. Mr. Sutton was married in 1840, to Miss Mary Ann Petit, a native of Ohio.

ABNER C. WELCH, Stone Station, son of Russell and Louisa M. Welch, was born in Oneida county, New York, in 1848. In 1856 he went with his father's family to Michigan, and received his early education in Grandville, in that state. In 1865 Abner removed to Lee county, and began farming in Nelson township, where he remained until 1875, when he removed to Harmon township and bought land in section 6. In 1878 he embarked in the grain and stock business at Stone Station, at which he has since been engaged. He was married in 1870, to Miss Ada Stone, a native of Lee county.

WILSON E. MECHEM, farmer, Harmon, son of John and Abigail Mechem, was born in Belmont county, Ohio, where he resided until he was twenty-seven years of age, when he removed to Magnolia, Putnam county, Illinois, where he worked at his trade (carpenter) for three years, after which he went to Marshall county and resided there from 1854 to 1868; in that year he removed to Pettis county, Missouri, and remained five years, then returned to Marshall county and remained three years. He then removed to Lee county and bought land in sections 22 and 27, in Harmon township. Mr. Mechem is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, with which he united in 1870. He was married December 31, 1851, to Miss Rhoda Simson, a native of Ohio.

LEWIS HULLINGER, farmer, Stone Station, son of Frederic and Catharine Hullinger, was born in Somerset county, Pennsylvania, in 1820. When Lewis was seventeen years of age his father's family re-

moved to Baltimore county, Maryland, where they remained about five years. At the end of this time they went to Bradford county, Pennsylvania. At the age of fourteen Lewis was apprenticed to a blacksmith at a place called Flint Stone, in Alleghany county, Maryland. He served five years' apprenticeship, after which he embarked in business alone. He carried on a shop at Polish Mountain, three and a half miles east of Flint Stone, for four years. From that place he removed to Mount Savage, in the same county, where he remained until the spring of 1855. In that year he came to Lee county and bought land in S.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 7, in Harmon township. Mr. Hullinger was married in 1847, to Miss Susan Long, a native of Pennsylvania, and is the father of nine children, six of whom are living. He is the present supervisor of the township.

W. H. ALLEN, farmer, Stone Station, son of John and Mercy Allen, was born in New Bedford, Massachusetts, July 18, 1824. The family remained there until William was ten years of age, when they removed to Erie county, New York, where they remained until 1839. In that year William, actuated by a desire to see some of the sights and wonders of the boundless West, left home and started on a journey toward the setting sun. Before his return he traveled over nearly all of the United States east of the Mississippi from Canada to New Orleans. After an absence of two years he returned to his old New England home and attended school three years at Dartmouth. In 1847 he sailed as a common hand on a merchant vessel that left the port of New York bound for Vera Cruz, and was in sight of that famous old city during the bombardment. From Vera Cruz he returned to New Orleans and was there made captain of a vessel engaged in the coasting trade, and was engaged in that business for several years. In 1848 he again returned to New Bedford and remained there until 1852. In that year he sailed on a whaling vessel, occupying the position of first mate. On the first voyage he was absent two years, during which time he was in nearly all of the important seaport towns in the world. Mr. Allen has in his possession a large diary, or sailor's log-book, kept by himself during his life on the ocean wave, containing sketches descriptive of the people he saw in the different countries he visited, also containing descriptions of the countries, records of every storm encountered, of every whale captured, etc. In perusing this time-worn book the writer found sketches dated at Melbourne, Australia, Hong Kong, China, Gibraltar, and many places of historical interest, among which was some notes written at the island of St. Helena. While here Mr. Allen visited the burial-place of the dead conqueror, who had once electrified the world by his brilliant military movements, and who ended his days on that lone, barren isle with no loving hand to

caress him, no voice to bid him a last farewell, save that of the wild waves as they dashed against the bleak and rocky shore. Mr. Allen spent about fourteen years of his life on the sea, and has now changed his occupation from that of plowing the billowy deep to that more humble and less exciting vocation of tilling the soil. He came to Lee county in 1864 and bought land in N.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 18, Harmon township. He was married in 1859, to Miss Caroline Dean, also a native of Massachusetts.

ABRAHAM BERLIN, farmer, Harmon, son of Abraham and Maria Berlin, was born in Northampton county, Pennsylvania, in 1837, where he remained until fifteen years of age. His father died in 1847. In 1853 Abraham came with his mother to Stephenson county, Illinois, where they resided two years and then removed to Bureau county, Illinois. They resided in that county five years, and then came to Lee county and bought land in S.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 26. Mr. Berlin is a member of the Wesleyan Methodist church, with which he united in 1865; was married in 1863, to Miss Nancy Jane Swan, a native of Kentucky, and is the father of five children.

ASA B. SMITH, farmer, Harmon, son of Obediah and Lorena Smith, was born in Norwich county, Connecticut, in 1822, where he resided until twenty-one years of age. His father was engaged in the clothing business in New London, but as Asa's tastes did not run in that direction he was apprenticed to a stone-cutter at an early age, and served until the fall of 1843. In the spring of 1844 he went into the city of Buffalo, where he worked five years at his trade. At the end of that time he went to farming, and was engaged in tilling the soil until 1855. In February of that year he came to Lee county and located in Dixon township, where he was for three years engaged in burning lime and afterward in farming. In the spring of 1861 he removed to Ogle county and remained there until January of the same year, when he returned to Dixon township, and was engaged in farming and ferrying until the spring of 1865, when he moved to Harmon township, and since that time has been a prominent citizen of that township. Mr. Smith was married in January 1846, to Miss Sarah M. Rogers, a native of Erie county, New York, and is the father of three children, two sons and one daughter. In 1871 was elected justice of the peace, which office he held for a period of ten years. Politically Mr. Smith is a democrat, although quite liberal in his views on all questions, and a very desirable citizen in any community.

JESSE HETLER, farmer, Dixon, the son of Nathan and Catherine (Kulp) Hetler, was born in the township of Dixon, on April 27, 1839. His father migrated from Columbia county, Pennsylvania, to Dixon, and was one of the oldest settlers in the township: when he came to



*Yours very truly* L. A. M. M. M.





Dixon there were only three log-houses in the city. Jessie received his education at the old Bend school-house, and worked on his father's farm till the age of twenty-four, when he married Miss Mary E. Beal, daughter of Mr. John Beal, of South Dixon, now of Iowa, in which latter state Mr. Hetler lived for seven years after his marriage. Returning to Palmyra, Lee county, he bought a farm of 160 acres, which he cultivated successfully for five years, when he sold it and bought in Nelson township, December 1, 1879, a homestead of 156 acres, which to-day ranks among the best farms in the township, and on which he now dwells. His family consists of two boys and three girls, named John T. Imogene, Alice Amanda, Nathan and Catherine, aged respectively sixteen, fourteen, twelve, eight and six years. Mr. Hetler is a member of the temperance organization. His first vote was cast for Abraham Lincoln.

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### BRADFORD TOWNSHIP.

This originally included T. 21 and half of 22, R. 11 E., of the 4th P.M. Its limits remained unchanged till the separation of the north half-township in the organization of Ashton township in 1861.

The first meeting was held April 1850, at the house of Ralph B. Evitts; Elisha Pratt, chairman, and Thomas S. Hulbert, secretary. Charles Starks was duly elected moderator and T. S. Hulbert, clerk, and both were sworn by Geo. E. Haskell, justice of the peace. The town was divided into three road districts. A fence law was passed. Charles Starks was elected supervisor, receiving 27 votes; Ira Brewer, town clerk, 19 votes; E. W. Starks, assessor, 18 votes; Samuel S. Starks, collector, 29 votes; Ralph B. Evitts, overseer of the poor, 20 votes; Sherman Shaw, Stephen Clink and George Yale, highway commissioners, 29, 26 and 28 votes respectively; Samuel S. Starks and Daniel Barber, constables, 27 votes each; Elisha Pratt and Lafayette Yale, justices of the peace, 24 and 21 votes respectively. Jesse Woodruff was nominated and elected as the defendant and prosecutor of suits of law and equity where the town is interested. On motion it was voted that the next meeting be held at R. B. Evitts'. Meetings were held at private houses till 1856, when a meeting was held in the school-house at Ogle Station (now the village of Ashton).

Bradford is an excellent township for farming. About three sections in the southeast corner consist of marsh or swamp land, used only for pasturing. Sec. 5, and a little adjoining land, is flat; the rest of the township is probably equal in natural productiveness to any other equal portion of Lee county. The land is in a good state of culture and mostly well improved. The inhabitants are German by a

good majority. Nearly all of the first occupants of the town, nearly all, settled in Lee Center, and thence spread out over the prairie north. Some made their claims as soon as they arrived in this locality; others lived at the "Inlet" a year or two before making any claim. Nearly all worked their claims before settling on them and building. Mr. Whitmore and Sherman Shaw were the first to build houses within the limits of Bradford. The house of the former was standing as early as the spring of 1839, on land now owned by Mrs. Schott, in the western part of the township. In 1840 Shaw built a frame house on the N.E. corner of Sec. 31. This building is still standing. Egbert Shaw is said to have been the first white child born within the township. Omen Hillison's house was built soon after those mentioned. Several claims were made in 1839, and but few, if any, before. In 1838 Charles Starks came to Inlet Grove, and the next year claimed the E.  $\frac{1}{2}$  N.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 32, and the W.  $\frac{1}{2}$  N.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the same section. About this time the Whipples claimed a short distance north of here. Starks at once began breaking his claim, and built and moved on to it in 1842. In 1839 George and Milo Yale claimed the N.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. in Bradford. In 1842 their father, N. C. Yale, moved from Franklin Grove to where Jacob Schmucker lives, Sec. 1. Before 1842 Jesse Woodruff settled on Sec. 32, R. B. Evitts on Sec. 29, and at about this time C. Bowen settled north of Bowen on the same section, and Stephen Clink built the stone house on the place where V. Hicks lives, Sec. 33. As early as 1845 John Hotzel was keeping what might be called a bachelor's hall in a slab shanty on the E.  $\frac{1}{2}$  S.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 31, claimed by him two or three years before. Hillison also was for several years a bachelor in Bradford, and lived in a sod house on the prairie before he put up his frame house. In 1842 Elias Hulbert claimed the S.  $\frac{1}{2}$  S.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 19, and moved on to it in the fall of the same year. John Owen was an early settler on what is now known as Bradford street.

Many of the first occupants were from Bradford county, Pennsylvania, and from this circumstance the town took its name. Lewis Clapp located quite a number of land warrants at an early period; and much land was bought with money furnished by him to parties many of whom would otherwise have been unable to purchase so soon as they did. It may be justly said of Mr. Clapp that directly or indirectly he did more than any other man for the early development of this township. As it now is it presents an appearance of thrift and abundance. Its population is industrious and peaceful. The town is not thickly settled, many of the farms being quite large. Inlet swamp covers Sec. 36, nearly all of 35 and 25, besides a little of 24 and 34 in the southeastern part; this has no dwellings upon it.

There are eight school-districts and part of a union district in

Bradford. The eight school-buildings are fully an average of the country school-house, and doubtless the instruction given in them is not materially different from work generally done in the country school; and yet the writer cannot dispossess himself of the idea that an over industry or greed for "eighties" and "forties" possesses many of the foreign-born farmers, to the serious detriment of their children, in that mental culture is lacking.

As early as 1850 meetings of the Evangelical church of Bradford were held at the house of John Hotzel, just over the line in China, nearly opposite William Ross' place. Hotzel had a room fitted up for the purpose, and a Sunday-school was also started. These were the first German meetings in the county. The preachers came from Perkins' Grove, Bureau county: McLean was the first, William Kolp was the next. Reinhart Grass, John Aschenbrenner, John Hotzel and his family, members of the families of C. Reinhart and Conrad Hotzel were among the original members. In 1859 a church was built on Sec. 17 at a cost of \$1,300. In 1874 an addition was made and a steeple erected at a further cost of \$2,700, making the total about \$4,000. The present membership is sixty, all but two of whom live in Bradford township. The Sunday-school numbers 125 pupils and 18 offices and teachers. The present pastor is Adam Goetschel, who has charge of this and another church in Reynolds township. These are in the Ashton circuit and Mendota district. All services are in the German tongue. The trustees of this church are Reinhart Grass, Peter Eisenberg, Nicholas Killmer, William Ross, and Charles Krug. The first trustees were C. Reinhart, R. Grass, and John Aschenbrenner.

There are two cemeteries within the limits of Bradford. One is on Sec. 29, on the southwest corner of the southeast quarter. Here between forty and fifty have been interred. The earliest inscription, October 25, 1842, is on the stone over the grave of Mrs. Hannah Hulbert. Here are the graves of Omen Hillison, who died June 21, 1853; Lucretia Sawyer, wife of C. Sawyer, June 20, 1848; Sarah A., wife of John Methorn, January 21, 1857; Lurany, wife of Elisha Pratt, April 9, 1858, aged sixty-eight years; Eliza A., wife of R. B. Evitts, February 28, 1877, aged sixty-eight years, six months and twenty-eight days; Stephen Clink, August 5, 1858, aged fifty years and ten months; Susannah, daughter of M. W. and L. A. Welden, August 17, 1848, aged nineteen years and four months. The other is on Sec. 15, a little north of C. Gehant's house. There have not been so many burials here as in the former, having been opened later, and these are chiefly of foreigners.

The Bradford Insurance Company was incorporated March 30, 1869, by a special act of the state legislature. Ira Brewer, R. B. Evitts,



Thomas S. Hulbert, Charles D. Hart, Valentine Hicks, C. F. Starks, and George Hulbert were the incorporators. It was to be styled "The Farmers' Mutual Fire Insurance Company of Bradford, in the county of Lee." At the first meeting, held November 1869, fifty-four applications were received, and fifty-one were approved and signed. Since its organization the company has had but three losses, amounting to \$2,440. It has had no loss for two years. The number of policies in force December 31, 1880, was 440, amounting to \$592,190. About twenty policies have since been written, making the total risk at this writing (July 1881) about \$620,000. These policies are held chiefly in Lee county, in the north and eastern parts. A few are held in Bureau and Ogle counties. The officers of the company are Ira Brewer, Samuel Dysart, George A. Lyman, C. D. Hart, William V. Jones, R. Grass, William Ross, managers; Ira Brewer, president; Samuel Dysart, secretary; C. D. Hart, treasurer; William V. Jones, general agent.

#### BIOGRAPHICAL.

WILLIAM S. FROST, farmer, Lee Center, was born in October 1832. His father, Daniel Frost, was born in New Hampshire in 1799. Eulalia Frost, his mother, was born in Maine in 1798. In 1837 Daniel Frost emigrated from Maine to Illinois. Leaving his family in Morgan county, he came to Lee county and built a log house about half a mile north and east of the Binghamton mill in Amboy township. The following spring the family came on, and in the fall of 1838 they settled on a place about a mile and a half east of Lee Center. In 1852 Mr. Frost moved into the village of Lee Center, where he lived till his death, October 1868. His wife, Eulalia Frost, died May 6, 1875. Of his eight children six survive him, Charles, Elizabeth (Mrs. Smith), Lydia (Mrs. Salisbury), William S., Silas D. and Marcia (Mrs. McKay). Mary (Mrs. Gilmore) died October 1865; Almira died March 1875. In the winter of 1853 4 William Frost went to California and returned in the fall of 1858. In the following spring he went again to California, overland, and remained till the summer of 1861, when he came home by way of Panama. At this point of his journey he heard of the battle of Bull Run. In May, 1862, he began raising a company, which was mustered at Dixon in June. On or about June 1 Mr. Frost received his commission as captain of Co. E, 75th Ill. Inf. This was a full company from Sublette and Lee Center. Frank Ells was first lieutenant. The company left their camp at Dixon September 27, 1862, and were first engaged at Perryville October 8. Here Co. E lost heavily: eleven were killed, twenty-six wounded, and two taken prisoners; Lieutenant Ells was killed and Captain Frost wounded.

The latter was removed to the New Albany, Indiana, hospital, where he remained two months. He joined his company in the battle of Stone river. He was in the engagements at Liberty Gap and Chica-mauga. In October, 1863, the 75th was assigned to the 3rd brigade, 1st division, 4th Army Corps, General William Grose commanding.

CAPT. WILLIAM S. FROST was with his company in the battles of Lookout Mountain and Missionary Ridge, and through to Atlanta, before which city he was wounded July 23, 1864, in consequence of which he was in hospital at Lookout Mountain till October, and then was sent home. He was mustered out February 23, 1865, at Cincinnati, Ohio, because of physical disabilities. In November, 1865, he married Sophia E. Shaw, daughter of Sherman Shaw. Their issue are Frank E., born November 3, 1866; Silas D., February 3, 1871; William S., September 22, 1872; Melinda S., February 11, 1868; Mary A., June 27, 1878. Mr. Frost is now living on Sec. 28, where James Phillips settled, having bought him out in 1871. He has a farm of 400 acres in Secs. 27 and 28. In 1873 he was burned out; but built again immediately, and two years ago completed his residence, at a cost of \$4,000. He is chiefly engaged in the raising of and trading in stock. He is a Mason, and for several years has been supervisor of Bradford. We wish him all the success that his generous nature deserves.

IRA BREWER, farmer, Lee Center, was born in Hampshire county, Massachusetts, in 1820. He is the son of Jonas B. and Betsey (Miller) Brewer, of English ancestry. His father was a farmer and he was reared to the same occupation. After he was ten years old he received but four terms of schooling of three months each. In 1842 he was married to Mary Phillips, who was born in Berkshire county, Massachusetts, November 1822. In the following year he and his wife came west, arriving in Lee Center in June 1843. Here they lived in a house previously occupied by Charles Starks, on the place now owned by Alva De Wolf. The same year Mr. Brewer bought from O. W. Wright a claim, W  $\frac{1}{2}$  N.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 32, Bradford township, for \$40 in trade; also the E.  $\frac{1}{2}$  N.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 31, from Sturdevant, for which, with ten acres of timber at "the grove," he paid \$100. He afterward entered both these claims. In 1845 he build a house, 19×24 feet, on his claim, about one hundred rods north of his present dwelling, which is situated on the E.  $\frac{1}{2}$  S.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 31, having built the latter in 1859. Mr. Brewer now owns 270 acres in Bradford, Secs. 31 and 32, and a large tract in Lee Center township, on Secs. 3, 16, 17 and 23. He has had six children, four of whom are living: Louisa, born March 30, 1846; George W., April 25, 1848; Ella J., December 11, 1849; Clara A., August 16, 1852; Luna C., August 22, 1854; and

Mary Jane (deceased, aged ten months). Clara A., wife of B. Starks, died October 24, 1872. Mrs. Brewer was the oldest in a family of eight. Her father died in Massachusetts and her mother in Chippewa county, Wisconsin, at the residence of her youngest son. Two of Mrs. Brewer's brothers were in the Kansas struggle. One was killed there in 1856 and the other lost an arm. In politics Mr. Brewer is a greenback republican. He was the first town clerk of Bradford, and for several years was supervisor. He with his family belongs to the Congregational church. He has in his possession several valuable relics: one is a powder-horn used in one of the early Indian wars, another is a continental dollar "Printed by Hall & Sellers 1775." Mrs. Brewer has an old Gaelic bible brought to this country by her grandfather McCullum more than one hundred years ago. On the first cover are written these words: "Maleum McCullum augh this book 1772. I am eighteen years old 1772. I have five brethren and tue sisters." On the next page is written: "Maleum McCullum is my name; Bradalban is my nation; Ardchoie is my dwelling place, my boni habitation 1771. Maleum McCullum augh this new testament." On the title-page is inscribed: "Le Balfour, Auld, agus Smellie, M,DCC,LXVII." The book is in a good state of preservation, the only disfigurement being the marks of a wetting it received on its voyage from Scotland. But for lack of space the writer would gladly testify to the many excellent qualities of the subjects of this sketch.

LORIN T. WELLMAN, farmer, Lee Center, was born in Susquehanna county, Pennsylvania, in 1821. He is the son of David and Abigail (Taylor) Wellman. His father was descended from one of two brothers who came from England about two hundred years ago. David Wellman came with his parents to Pennsylvania from Connecticut about 1808. Jacob Wellman, the grandfather of our subject, was all through the revolutionary war. In 1840 the latter married Waity Hopkins, of New York state, and in 1848 came to Lee county, and at first lived about one and a half miles west of the village of Lee Center, and subsequently in the village. His father settled at the same time in Du Page county, Illinois. In 1852 Lorin Wellman located a land warrant on the N.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  N.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 27, for his father, and at the same time the N.W. of Sec. 23 for himself. In the meantime he followed the mason's trade till 1856, when he bought his father's property and moved to where he is now living. David Wellman having moved to Bradford in 1853, and died in August 1855. Mr. Wellman owns 240 acres of land in Bradford, and an improved farm of 219 acres in Lee Center township. He and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church. He is a Mason and a republican, but was a staunch democrat



till the democratic platform of 1856 was formulated. His family consisted of Charles H., William (deceased, aged seventeen years), Dennis, Truman E., Seth A. and Ida M. The first and third of these are married and living in Kansas. Seth A. is married and lives in Indiana. Ida M. is the wife of German Lewis. Truman E. Wellman died in 1864, in his twenty-second year. He was a dwarf, and during his entire life was a sufferer from chronic humors and erysipelas. Notwithstanding his great affliction, he was remarkably intelligent and sprightly, and will long be remembered by all who knew him.

HARLOW A. WILLIAMSON, farmer, Franklin Grove, was born in Addison county, Vermont, January 8, 1830; son of Samuel and Sibyl (DeLong) Williamson, both of Vermont. Their ancestors were early English settlers in that state. Harlow Williamson was the son of a farmer, and one of a family of four boys and three girls, all of whom are west, except one brother, who lives on the homestead in Vermont. The subject of this sketch came to Lee county in 1850; worked around by the month four years. He bought the N.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 21, Bradford township, from Lewis Clapp, and in 1853 built a house. He now owns a farm of 180 acres with good buildings. His house, built since "the war," cost him not less than \$3,000. In 1857 he married Emeline S. Starks, of Lee county. Their family consists of two adopted children, Harry and Katie Belle, aged fourteen and seven years respectively. Mr. W. is a republican in politics, and with his wife belongs to the Lee Center Congregational church. He is a careful farmer, and his place presents a tasteful and thrifty appearance.

PHILIP RUNYAN, farmer, Franklin Grove, was born in Columbia county, Pennsylvania, in 1818; son of Joshua and Elizabeth (Swisher) Runyan, both of Pennsylvania. His mother's people were from Virginia, and his paternal grandfather was a native of New Jersey. Philip was the eldest in a family of twelve, ten of whom are living. He was raised a farmer, and enjoyed the benefits of a common schooling. He was married March 28, 1844, to Elizabeth Savage, born September 8, 1819. Their issue are Anna, born February 1, 1847; Esther, November 8, 1850; Elizabeth, September 10, 1854. In 1849 Mr. Runyan located a land warrant on the W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  N.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$ , S.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  N.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$ , and S.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  N.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 7, Bradford township, and in 1859 came from Pennsylvania and settled on the same. He has since improved this land, and his buildings have cost at least \$4,000. Mr. Runyan and his wife are members of the Baptist church. He is a member of the Franklin Grove Masonic Lodge No. 264, and is also a Royal Arch Mason, Nathan Whitney Chapter. Though a democrat, Mr. Runyan has for many years held office in a strong republican township. He has been a justice of the peace since 1862, and town clerk since 1868.



PETER EISENBERG, farmer, Ashton, was born in Hesse-Cassel, Germany, in 1831; son of Asman and Christine (Sebrar) Eisenberg. His father served thirty years in the German army; was in the battles of Waterloo and Metz, in the latter of which he was wounded. In 1852 our subject, with his father and mother and their family, sailed from Bremen to New York, and arrived in Lee county in December of the same year. The family settled on Sec. 23, Bradford township, and bought the E.  $\frac{1}{2}$  N.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  from Lewis Clapp, and subsequently forty acres in Sec. 16. Mr. Eisenberg now owns ten acres more than a section of land, and lives on the N.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 23. His father died in 1872; his mother is living with him. He was married July 1, 1855, to Catherine Bower. Their family consists of nine children: Christine (wife of John Fauble), George, John, William, Henry, Adam, Mina, Mary, Emma. Mr. Eisenberg is a republican, and with his family belongs to the Evangelical church of Bradford.

LUTHER BALDWIN, farmer, Ashton, son of Joseph and Polly (Smith) Baldwin, was born June 22, 1820, in Connecticut. Here his father and mother were born, the former in 1797, the latter in 1796. These parents had a family of ten children, eight of whom, with the mother, are living. Different researches trace the lineage of the family to several Baldwin brothers who landed in New York at an early day. In 1849 Luther Baldwin married Nancy Talmage, of Connecticut, by whom he has six children: Polly Ann, Sarah J., Joseph W., Esther, Phoebe, and Charles H. In 1852 Mr. Baldwin came to Lee Center, where he lived three months; thence to Ralph Evitt's, and in the spring of 1853 he located a land warrant on the E.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of S.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  and S.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of S.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 14, Bradford township. Here he has since lived, having built the following fall, and subsequently improved the farm. He is a republican and Odd-Fellow, and a member of the Ashton Methodist Episcopal church, to which his wife also belongs.

MRS. CATHERINE E. ASCHENBRENNER, Lee Center, one of the most prominent characters in the history of Bradford, was born in Hesse Cassel, Germany, in 1832. Her parents were Christian and Christine (Denhart) Reinhart. She is the eldest in a family of six, five of whom survive. Christian Reinhart was twelve years a soldier in the German army, and in 1845 came to New York with his family; thence to Chicago, and from there with an ox team to Lee county. The next year they rented a farm owned by Othro Wright, now A. DeWolf's farm, and from here they went to China township, to where Andrew Reinhart now lives. Mr. Reinhart got eighty acres of government land and subsequently eighty from Lewis Clapp. Here he settled and lived till his death in 1865, at which time he was the owner of nearly 500 acres of land. Their first year in America was a hard one for the

family. The father was taken sick in cradling time and was confined to his bed for many months. His wife and Catherine, his daughter, worked very hard to support the family and pay doctor bills. They cleaned grain, husked corn, and dug potatoes in early winter. Nothing by which they could earn a little was considered too hard. In November 13, 1849, Catherine Reinhart was married to Omen Hillison, born December 14, 1814. He was an early settler in Bradford, and at first lived in a sod house. His frame house was quite conspicuous in an early day, and was seen over the naked prairie by the Reinharts at Melugin's Grove on their way out from Chicago. The fruits of this union were Henry W. and Betsey, born September 12, 1850, and October 11, 1852, respectively. Mr. Hillison died June 21, 1853, from sunstroke. He was a native of Norway; he came to America in 1835, and for a few years was a coast sailor. He is held in grateful remembrance by all of the early settlers, many of whom first found shelter under his roof on their arrival here. His widow was married, October 1, 1854, to John Aschenbrenner. Three children are their offspring: Christian, Reinhart, and Andrew. About 1870 Mrs. Aschenbrenner paid her husband \$7,000 for all the realty in his name, and they parted. She has since obtained a divorce. She now owns 360 acres in Bradford, 131 in Brooklyn, and a large tract in Iowa. She has given two of her sons 160-acre farms. Her mother died in 1870.

REINHART GROSS, farmer, Franklin Grove, was born in Hesse Cassel, Germany, in 1829; son of John and Martha (Schnider) Gross. His mother died when he was six or seven years old, and his father two or three years later. The latter was nine years a German soldier. In 1847 R. Gross came to America with Jacob Reiss, in whose family he lived from his father's death till he was of age, at which time he went to work for John Hotzel, continuing in his service four years. In 1853 he married Martha Reinhart. He began farming for himself on eighty acres in Sec. 24, China township, on which he lived till 1867, when he moved to Bradford, N.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 19, and built on the west half of the same. His farm is well improved, the buildings having cost him about \$5,000. To the above quarter section he added the W.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of S.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 18. He also owns an improved farm of 150 acres in Sec. 15, and eighty acres in Sec. 24. His children are: Christian, Lizzie, Catherine (deceased), Henry, Mary, and Emma. The family are members of the Evangelical church of Bradford, of which Mr. Gross is a trustee. His eldest sister lives in Germany, and a brother and sister are living in Iowa.

ONTONE REINHART, farmer, Franklin Grove, was born May 13, 1840, in Hesse-Cassel, Germany. He is the son of C. Reinhart, who gave him a good education. The first land he owned was eighty acres in China

township, now owned by Andrew, his brother. This land was entered by Lewis Clapp, and afterward bought from him by the father of our subject. In 1861 Ontone Reinhart married Catherine Kersten. About this time he sold his land in China and bought from Samuel Crawford the E.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of S.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 18, Bradford township. This he broke up and built on it the same year. He now owns 360 acres in Secs. 18, 19 and 20, Bradford, and 45 acres of wood land in Lee Center. His property is highly valuable, there being but little, if any, better land in Lee county. In two of his pastures there is living water. Mr. Reinhart has a family of nine children: Henry, Andrew, Charles, Lizzie, Martha, Gust, Lena, George, and Christian. Henry is married and lives in Bradford.

BERGHARDT ALBRECHT, farmer, Ashton, was born February 10, 1839, in Hesse Cassel, Germany; son of George and Christine Albrecht, who had a family of eight children. The former was in the German military service six or seven years. In 1855 the subject of this sketch left his native land, both of his parents being dead, and arrived in Lee county June 19. For nine years he worked for Adam Schubart, Bradford, and during the last year of his service there he was married to Martha Kersten, by whom he has had nine children: Martha, Ontone, Kate, Marcus, Charles, Mary, Clara. Two died, aged one year and eighteen months respectively. After his marriage Mr. Albrecht farmed rented land four years in Bradford, and then bought 160 acres in Reynolds, S.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 17, from Mr. Baden. Here he lived six years, when he sold out to George Kersten, and bought from the administrators of his deceased brother John's estate the farm he now owns in Bradford. This consists of the N.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of S.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  and the S.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of N.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 19. Mr. Albrecht and his family are members of the Ashton Lutheran church. He had always voted the republican ticket till the last presidential election. He is interested in the education of his family much more than are the majority of the German people in this vicinity.

EDWARD W. POMEROY, farmer, Lee Center, was born in Northampton, Hampshire county, Massachusetts, in 1823. His parents were Elihu and Miriam (Wright) Pomeroy, both of the same state and of English ancestry. His father was a cooper, but he was raised a farmer. He received a good education. In 1844 he came west to Princeton, Illinois, and remained there from August till the following February; thence he came to Lee Center. He lived with Mr. Ira Brewer three years. In the meantime he bought from S. Shumway a claim to the W.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of N.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 31, Bradford, where he is now living. In 1848 he bought the Alva DeWolf farm, Lee Center township, but soon sold it. About this time he bought an "eighty" on Sec. 30. This is land now

owned by William Ross and J. Crombie. It was here that Mr. Pomeroy began housekeeping, having married, in 1852, Lora J. Adams, of Steuben county, New York. In 1856 he sold this land, built on his first claim, and moved to his present home. Since then he has farmed but little. For several years he was buying and shipping hogs and cattle. In 1868 he went into partnership with Lewis Clapp, in a grist-mill, at Northampton, Massachusetts. Mr. Pomeroy has owned this mill since the death of Mr. Clapp in 1880. In an early day our subject drove a breaking team and run a threshing machine for several years. In 1846 he and J. H. Gardner bought the first reaper used in the vicinity. It was a "McCormick," brought from near Rochester, New York. This machine was first tried in a piece of winter wheat, and many came from all around to see it work. In 1852 Mr. Pomeroy raised the first crop of timothy seed marketed from this section of country. It consisted of 150 bushels, which he hauled to Aurora and shipped from there to Chicago by rail, receiving for it \$1.75 per bushel. His family consists of two daughters and one son: Mary, Lucy, and Edwin. The former were educated at Rockford, Illinois. Mary is the wife of Henry Wright, and is living in Massachusetts. Mr. Pomeroy is a republican, and was formerly an Odd-Fellow.

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#### SOUTH DIXON TOWNSHIP.

The town of South Dixon was organized in April 1867. The cause of its separation from Dixon, the parent town, was the desire of the outlying farmers to restrain cattle from roaming at large, an evil which was not sufficiently comprehended by the people of Dixon. Mr. Abram Brown, in conjunction with others, prepared and presented a petition to the supervisors praying for the division, which was eventually made.

South Dixon comprises all of T. 21, R. 9 E., of the 4th P.M., and contains thirty sections, having an area of 19,200 acres. It ranks among the first in agricultural resources, the land being in a very high state of cultivation. The soil for the greater part is a black alluvial and is irrigated by numerous small tributaries of the Three and the Five mile branches, which latter traverse the township from east to west; the source of the last mentioned is on the farm of Mr. Burkett, at the southeastern portion of the township.

The surface of the country is gently rolling. The hills and dales are beautified by many groves, under whose grateful shelter comfortable farm-houses appear. A perusal of the biographical sketches will show that for the most part the present or previous occupants of this



portion of Lee county migrated from Somerset county, Pennsylvania. They are a thrifty, industrious and persevering people, whose energy has transformed a prairie into a garden; they support schools for the education of their offspring and are commendable for their religious tendencies, and their homes possess all the comforts and many of the luxuries of life.

Among the early settlers appear the names of Charles Edson, Abram Brown, Christon Stevens, Henry B. True, Caldwell Bishop, Reuben Trowbridge, Henry Page, Jacob McKenney, Jacob and E. H. Groh, James Rogers, Matthew McKenney, Wm. A. Judd, Nathan Hill, Wm. I. Fritz and others, to whom particular allusion is made in the memoirs.

There are three churches in the township: two Evangelical Lutheran and one Methodist Episcopal, the last mentioned being also a union church.

St. James' Evangelical Lutheran church is on the Chicago road and was erected in the year 1877, by the representatives of the various religious bodies in the vicinity, but is now exclusively used by members of the persuasion previously mentioned. It can accommodate about 280 members. It is a wooden structure, cost \$3,200, and is now entirely out of debt. When this church was built the Sabbath-school was removed thither from the old brick school-house; it is well attended, has a staff of eight teachers, and for the past fifteen years Mr. Hiram Uhl has been superintendent. The first pastor was the Rev. J. P. Sanderson; the present one is the Rev. A. J. B. Cast. The church belonging to the Methodist Episcopal body is situated in the village of Eldena. It was built in the year 1870. It is built of wood and can seat 150. It is also a union church, being used by the Evangelicals and United Brethren for church purposes. The first and present pastor is the Rev. M. A. Rice.

#### SCHOOLS.

There are four schools in South Dixon. Particular allusion may be made to the old brick school-house in Dist. No. 3, T. 21, where the attendance at one time was one hundred and twenty; the average attendance now is about twenty-seven. The present teacher is Lorenzo Wood; the directors are Messrs. Abram Brown, Hiram Uhl and Isaac Seitz. Apropos of education here, the first school was held by Miss Edson, in a room in her brother's house. In the same room was organized the first union Sabbath-school in Lee county, outside of Dixon. Mr. E. B. Edson was appointed the first teacher of the new school. The gentlemen most active in its erection were Abram Brown, John and Charles Beal, Joseph Smith, Hiram Uhl, William J. and John Fritz. The Kellogg

school is in Dist. No. 8, T. 21, R. 9. The present directors are A. E. Fellows, Frederick Bollman and William Missman. It can accommodate eighty children; average attendance about twenty-five. It was erected in 1867. The first teacher was A. M. Jennes; the present one Lydia Conderman. The Lievan school can accommodate seventy; daily average about twenty-five. Eldena school, in the village of Eldena, can seat one hundred pupils; average attendance about fifty. The first teacher was A. F. Parker.

The county farm is situated in Sec. 26, South Dixon, and contains one hundred acres. The Illinois Central railroad cuts off a small portion, which is used as a burying-ground, in which five interments have taken place within the past three years. The farm latterly has exceeded the expectations of its founders, and though the land is now of the best, yet under its present management the returns for the past three years have exceeded those of any former similar period. In 1879 there were sold hogs to the amount of \$292.82; corn, \$164; total, \$396.82. In 1880 the proceeds from hogs, corn and oats were \$254.12. The prospects for 1881 are fair. There are at present under cultivation thirty-four acres of corn and eighteen of oats. There are ten cows and four horses on the farm. It were well to explain that the farm is an asylum for the poor, idiotic, crippled and infirm, as well as for those affected by indulgence in strong drink. There are at present fifteen inmates, nine males and six females. Four only are valuable as farm hands, who are set to suitable work only, such as hoeing, milking, hog-feeding, etc. Dr. Edmond R. Travers, of Amboy, is physician to the institution, and visits whenever notified by the superintendent, Mr. Thomas L. Stetson, who is a salaried officer. He works the farm to the best advantage and hands the proceeds to the board.

#### LITERARY AND DEBATING SOCIETIES.

The only association of this nature in the township was organized in the year 1858, under the title of the Edsonville Literary and Debating Society. Its first meetings were held in the old brick school-house at Edsonville, so called from a family of that name having been the first settlers here. Mr. Abram Brown was its first president. He evinced an unceasing interest in its welfare and progress. The debates were characterized by vigor and ability, many clever men of Dixon participating therein. This society exercised a beneficial influence in forming the habits and educating the taste of the young in this district.

The Illinois Central railroad passes through the township from north to south. There is a passenger station at the village of Eldena. Mr. H. Hursey is the agent who fills the offices of the express agent and operator for the Western Union Telegraph Company. The

Chicago & Northwestern railroad runs through the northern portion of the township.

#### ELDENA VILLAGE.

This is on the line of the Illinois Central railroad, and is situated in the N.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of N.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 36, and comprises about forty acres. The first store and house was built by Reuben H. Cheney, deceased. The first and only church belongs to the Methodist Episcopal body, vide churches. The first grain-house was built by Messrs. Reuben Trowbridge, Reuben H. Cheney and Daniel Brown. The school has been referred to under its proper head. The only elevator in the village is owned by Jeremiah Mottoller, who ships annually about 300,000 bushels of corn. The elevator is capable of handling 3,000 bushels daily. The only stores in the village are owned by Frederick Glessner, George N. Stahn, and A. H. Brubaker, who keep an assortment of goods suited to the requirements of the neighborhood; but the majority of the people choose Dixon for their market town. The village has improved of late years; the population is now about 200.

#### BIOGRAPHICAL.

ABRAM BROWN, farmer, Dixon, the son of George and Elsie Brown, formerly of York, latterly of Michigan, was born November 17, 1816, in the township of Yarmouth, at Temperanceville, Eighth Concession north of Lake Erie, Middlesex county, district of London, Upper Canada, where he subsequently filled the offices of clerk and deputy postmaster. He migrated to the State of Illinois on September 21, 1837, and settled in the town of Grand Detour, Ogle county, where he engaged in mercantile pursuits, and was appointed postmaster of that place February 18, 1840, which position he held for three years. In the fall of 1843, having resigned that post, he moved to Dixon and entered into the blacksmithing business, and on his appointment to the postmastership of Dixon he declined his share of the partnership in the blacksmithing business, and having creditably filled the office of postmaster for three years, impaired health compelled him to resign the post, when he moved to Franklin Grove, Lee county, where he engaged in farming and established the first post-office; he was also the first postmaster appointed there. In February, 1849, he sold out, and on July 3 following he moved to the place he now occupies, in Sec. 13, in the town of South Dixon, and has since followed the occupation of farming. He has always taken a leading part in politics, being a democrat, and was twice honored by his party with the nomination to the legislature. He was six times elected to the office of justice of the peace, in which capacity he commanded the respect of his fellow citizens. He has held the offices of highways commissioner,

school trustee, and for eighteen years the post of school director in his district. He took a very active part in having the town of Dixon divided, and the town of South Dixon set off, in March 1868, the supervisors finally acceding to Mr. Brown's petition. Subsequently he held the post of supervisor of South Dixon for four years and that of magistrate for eight years. For a number of years Mr. Brown has been crop correspondent of the Bureau of Agriculture at Washington, and has acted in a similar capacity for the agricultural department at Springfield, and has contributed various articles on the topics of the day for the press and literary journals. He possesses a fine library, is a man of extensive reading, and is the mainstay of a once prosperous and talented literary debating society, being its first president. On May 14, 1844, he was united in wedlock to Correlia Whitney, daughter of Col. Nathan Whitney, of Franklin Grove, Lee county. Mr. Brown has a family of three girls and two boys, all highly educated. Virginia H., the eldest daughter, has taught school for the past fifteen years, and has graduated from Rock River Collegiate Institute. Olga and Mary remain at home. Henry A. Brown, the elder son, studied medicine and is one of the supervisors in the institution for feeble-minded children at Lincoln, Illinois. George M., the younger son, is a student in Champaign College, Illinois, and is naturally an inventor, having patented a device for grinding mower sickles. Mr. Brown is the oldest resident in South Dixon and one of the oldest in the county.

DANIEL BROWN, farmer, Eldena, the son of John and Nancy (Westcott) Brown, of Berkshire county, Massachusetts, was born November 6, 1820, in Windsor, of the same county and state. When eight years old his father moved to Aurora, Erie county, New York, where he attended school for about six years. In the spring of 1834 his father settled in Du Page county, Illinois, where Daniel availed himself of the means of education till he reached the age of twenty-three, when he entered Belvidere Seminary, near Rock river, and attended there for one year, when, his father dying, he left the seminary and took charge of his father's farm, which he shortly afterward purchased from the heirs; it consisted of 300 acres of very choice land. In the year 1854 he sold the above farm and moved to Lee county, Sec. 31, in the township of Nachusa, at that time Chinatown, where he remained till 1871, when he disposed of his farm, but had to retake it, the purchaser being unable to pay; he then rented it till the spring of 1880, in the interim residing in Dixon; since that time Mr. Brown has occupied the farm. In November, 1842, he married Miss Adelaide J. Cheney, eldest daughter of Reuben and Sarah Cheney, of Du Page county, near Naperville, and they have a family of six children, five



boys and one girl. Clara, the eldest, has married, and resides in Iowa; Frank, the eldest boy, was in the Union army in the war of the rebellion, and at its termination went with the command into Dakota to the Indian territory, where he conducted himself creditably, and located a claim at Ellsworth county, Kansas; Eugene M., the second son, is engineer on the Texas Pacific railroad; Walter B. fills the post of clerk in Parsons, southeast Kansas, and Harry E. and Edwin are at home.

JACOB GROH, farmer, Dixon, was born in Berks county, Pennsylvania, in 1806, where he spent his youth and received a limited education. At the age of sixteen years he was apprenticed to learn the potter's trade, but because of bronchial affections he could not continue in it. In 1828 he was married to Miss Kathrine Hoffman, and for some years lived at Catawissa, Pennsylvania. In 1848 they moved to Lee county, Illinois, and a little later entered 160 acres of land near his present home, with a Mexican land warrant. He is the father of ten children, only two of whom are now living: Mrs. Susan Statlsmith, of Eldora, Iowa, and Ephram H. Groh, Esq., a justice of the peace and prominent citizen of South Dixon township, Lee county. He has a beautiful farm home two and three quarters miles from the city of Dixon, on the Chicago road. Politically Mr. Groh is a republican, but has led a quiet, private life all his days, holding no office save that he was the first overseer of the poor in South Dixon township. He has been a member of the Lutheran church for many years, and was one of the prime movers in the establishment and building of the St. James church, located a few miles from Dixon, on the Chicago road. He helped to build the present school-house in his district, a brick structure, which at that time was the finest in Lee county.

OLIVER E. FELLOWS, farmer, Dixon, the son of Simon and Elizabeth (Deyo) Fellows, was born June 12, 1837, in Cherry Grove, Jo Daviess county, Illinois. His father was from New Hampshire and his mother from New York state. From Cherry Grove his father moved into Palmyra township, Lee county, to Sugar Grove, where his father rented a farm and where the subject of this sketch attended school for a short time. On March 25, 1860, Mr. Fellows was married to Miss Mary E. Boyer, daughter of Abram and Elizabeth Boyer, of Somerset county, Pennsylvania. He has a fine family of ten children, five boys and five girls, all living under the parental roof. The census taker said he had the premium family in the township. On March 11, 1878, Mr. Fellows moved from Sugar Grove to South Dixon, Sec. 29, and rented a large farm from Col. Noble. The land is most suitable for pasturage and agriculture. It is intersected by the Five-mile



*L. K. Hummel.*



branch and contains a beautiful grove, which was planted since the termination of the war.

WILLIAM J. FRITZ, farmer, Dixon, the son of John and Eve (Mowry) Fritz, of Somerset county, Pennsylvania, was born there July 1, 1825, and attended school with much difficulty on account of the absence of roads. At the age of twenty years he commenced working on his father's farm, which he continued till his marriage with Miss Eliza Phillippi, eldest daughter of John and Rebecca Phillippi, of Somerset county, Pennsylvania, which event took place October 16, 1849. After this he went on his own farm in that place. In April, 1853, he moved to Lee county, Illinois, South Dixon, Sec. 24. Mr. Fritz, sr., had previously bought land in this section and gave eighty acres of such property to his son, who subsequently bought from his father eighty acres more. Mr. Fritz has now in this township, in different sections, 390 acres of as good land as can be found in Lee county. He has also eight and a half acres of timber lands, owns besides 758 acres in Kansas, and is an example of what industry, integrity and perseverance can accomplish. Mr. Fritz had ten children: the eldest boy, Peter Freeman, died at the age of eleven years, and rest, seven boys and two girls, are living, and with the exception of one boy who has gone east are all at home. Mr. Fritz spares no expense in the education of his family, sending them to the best colleges. Noah, the third son, is at Carthage College, Hancock county. Mr. Fritz is most anxious that a superior education should be imparted in the district school.

HIRAM UHL, farmer, Dixon, is the offspring of Daniel and Mary (Long) Uhl, of Somerset county, Pennsylvania, and was born in the same county and state September 21, 1828. He was educated at the district school till he arrived at the age of eighteen years. He followed the occupation of teaming and farming for a considerable number of years, when he moved west and bought a farm in Sec. 13, at that time Dixon township, which he farmed till the year 1860, when he moved into Dixon and engaged in the milling business for two years. On September 12, 1850, he married Miss Margaret Wilhelm, daughter of Philip Wilhelm, of Maryland, by whom he had four children, two of whom are dead; the other two are comfortably married. Mrs. Uhl died July 8, 1858, aged twenty-eight years, ten months and twenty-five days. March 20, 1862, Mr. Uhl married Miss Nancy Hughes, daughter of Joseph Hughes, of Cumberland, Alleghany county, of whom the issue is four children, all girls: Ida May, Bertha Almeda, Eva Olive, and Grace Guthrie, all of whom are attending school. Mr. Uhl's farm is a good one of 300 acres, watered by a tributary of the Three-mile branch.



EPHRAIM FRITZ, farmer, Dixon, son of Ananias and Harriet Fritz, was born in Somerset county, Pennsylvania, September 30, 1847. His parents migrated to South Dixon, Lee county, in April 1852, and bought a farm of 135 acres in S.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 13. It has a southern aspect and is well adapted for agriculture and pasturage. His mother died in 1864, and his father has removed to Kansas, where at present he farms 140 acres. The subject of this sketch, July 10, 1873, was united in marriage to Miss A. C. Seibert, daughter of Rev. James L. W. Seibert, Somerset county, Pennsylvania. They have three children, two girls and one boy, named Flora Amelia, Harry Seibert, and Ida May, aged respectively seven, five and four years. Mr. Fritz was for three years in the Illinois Central railroad office at Eldena.

DEANE W. BAILEY, farmer, Dixon, son of Capt. Hiram Bailey and grandson of Maj. Gen. William Bailey, was born in Rupert, Bennington county, Vermont, December 10, 1838. He came from Michigan to Illinois in the spring of 1866 and engaged in the dry goods business in Polo for some years, when he came to Dixon and bought a farm in the vicinity of the town. Mr. Bailey has honorably filled the position of town clerk of South Dixon and now occupies the position of supervisor. He returned to Vermont and married Miss Julia E. Graves, the youngest daughter of Francis Graves, of Rupert, Bennington county. They have had five children, but two have been removed by death, and two girls and one boy remain.

J. MOSTOLLER, grain, stock and coal dealer, Eldena, was born in Somerset county, Pennsylvania, in 1836, and came to this county in 1855 and engaged in farming till 1861. He entered the army in Capt. Cheney's battery, of Dixon, in which he remained for three years, having discharged his duties efficiently and having enjoyed the esteem of his comrades. He passed unscathed through thirteen battles. After leaving the army he returned to farming for two years, when he embarked in the dry-goods, lumber, coal and grain business, and now owns the only elevator in the village, from which he annually ships about 300,000 bushels. This elevator is capable of handling 5,000 bushels per day. In 1877 he married Miss Rachel Morris, of Lee county.

ISAAC SEITZ, farmer, Dixon, was born near Dayton, Ohio, November 18, 1843. His parents were Isaac and Elizabeth (Flora) Seitz, the former born in Lancaster county, and the latter in Somerset county, Pennsylvania, and both removing to Ohio in an early day. During life the elder Mr. Seitz was a farmer and cooper, and died of apoplexy about February 20, 1877, in Lee county, aged sixty-seven years, and Mrs. Seitz died about 1848, also in Lee county, in the same house that her husband died in. Mr. Seitz, jr., came to this county when about the age of two and a half years, and has resided here ever since.

His education was of a limited character, and his occupation through life has been that of a farmer, having under cultivation some eighty acres in excellent condition, all amassed by hard labor. He was married to Miss Susan Landers December 2, 1869, in Sterling, Whitesides county, Illinois. She was born March 17, 1850, in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, her parents also being natives of the same state. They have five children: Cora A., born September 11, 1870; Irving O., December 17, 1874; Isaac H., March 10, 1876; William A., February 12, 1878; and Agnes May, March 27, 1880; Ollive Frances, born July 9, 1872, and died March 27, 1873, aged eight months.

FREDERICK GLESSNER, general merchant, Eldena, was born in Somerset county, Pennsylvania, March 27, 1847. His parents were Jeremiah and Amy Ann (Laub) Glessner, both natives of Somerset county, Pennsylvania, the father still living, and the mother dying February 1868, in this township. Frederick, with his parents, came to this country in 1864, locating near Eldena. He received the usual winter schooling, and during the summer season he worked on the farm. In September, 1877, he opened a store in Eldena, carrying a general stock of merchandise, in which, by perseverance, industry and integrity he has built himself up a fine business. He was married to Miss Luphema Hill March 31, 1868, she having been born February 11, 1848, in Luzerne county, Pennsylvania. Her parents, both deceased, were natives of the same state. Mr. Glessner has a family of five children: Jeremiah, born January 28, 1869; Frank, October 1, 1871; Percy, February 9, 1874; Esther, March 30, 1876, and Arthur, August 26, 1880. Georgiana was born October 28, 1879, and died February 25, 1880.

JACOB SENNEFF, farmer, Eldena, was born in Fayette county, Pennsylvania, July 11, 1836. His parents were William and Phoebe (Barnett) Senneff, the former being born in Fayette county, Pennsylvania, June 1795, and died in Carroll county, Illinois, in June 1875, in his eightieth year. The latter was born in the same county in 1797 and died in 1842, aged forty-five years. Mr. Senneff's father and grandfather were born in the same house, and he was born not a half mile distant. Our subject's great-grandfather was a general in the German army during the twenty-one years' war, but resigned and came to America, settling in Pennsylvania, his nearest neighbor being sixty miles distant. At the age of eighteen years Mr. Senneff moved to Dixon township (1854), and to Carroll county in 1859, returning in 1861 to Dixon. In the latter year he enlisted in the 34th Ill. Vol. Inf., Col. Edwin M. Kirk commanding. His first engagement was at Shiloh, followed by the battles of Stone River, Chattanooga, Mission Ridge, Chickamauga, the Atlanta campaign and Sherman's march to

the sea, as well as the campaign of the Carolinas in 1865. He was wounded in both arms at Bentonville, North Carolina, March 19, 1865, having his right arm amputated above the elbow, his left being still in a crippled condition. He received his discharge July 24, 1865, and returned to his home, moving to Carroll county the same year and returned to Lee county in 1874, where he has since resided, following the occupation of a farmer. He was married to Miss Sarah Fritz November 15, 1855. Her parents were John and Eve Mowry Fritz. Mrs. Sennell was born in Somerset county, Pennsylvania, December 8, 1831. They have four children living: Mary Ann (wife of E. M. June), Harvey M., Ellen A. and Susan V. Mr. Sennell has never been the recipient of any office, nor has he ever sought for one, having always been content with the position of "high private."

### MAY TOWNSHIP.

This township derives its name from a military officer by that name, who fell in the battle of Palo Alto. It is known as T. 19, R. 10 of the 4th P.M. The first settler to cast his lot in this township was Joseph Bay, who located on Sec. 13, south of Palestine Grove. The next settler was Ira Axtle, who came in the same year, and located on Sec. 6.

In 1840 William Dolan settled on Sec. 14. Mr. Dolan is one of the most prominent citizens in the township, and has always since the organization of the township held some position of trust. He served twelve years as supervisor, was justice of the peace fourteen years, and also held the office of town clerk and commissioner of highways for a number of terms.

Martin McGowan, J. Moran and John Darcy also came in 1840, and took claims in Secs. 14 and 23. Of these early settlers, Dolan, McGowan and Darcy are the only ones who are at present residents of the township.

May and Sublette towns were once a part of what was known as Inlet voting precinct, and the voters were obliged to go to Inlet to cast their votes. Elections were for a number of years held at the residence of Joseph Sawyer at that place. The citizens of May were led to expect the Illinois Central railroad to run through the town, but were disappointed.

A post-office was established in the town at the residence of Mr. Morrison, known as May Hill post-office. Through the efforts of some interested parties the stage route was changed and a post-office established at the residence of Daniel Beard, which office was known as Brookfield.

In 1850 William Dolan wrote to the Postmaster-General in regard to the removal of the office, and three months afterward the mail route was again changed and the office restored to its former location, and a Mr. Hubbard appointed postmaster, which position he held until the railroad had been completed, when the office was removed to Sublette.

In 1850 the township was organized by Joseph Crawford, Harry Morgan and Lorenzo Wason, county commissioners.

In early times a brotherly feeling existed among the settlers, and favors were exchanged in an open-hearted manner.

An organization existed known as the Palestine Grove minute men, which had been organized for the purpose of protecting the rights of the settlers in regard to their claims. In 1845 the land was surveyed and the market opened, after which the minute men were kept busy. The first claim jumped and entered in the township was that of Hiram Anderson, which was deeded by a man named Bull, who drove stage between Peru and Dixon. This difficulty called the minute men together from all directions. They met in the barn of a Mr. Fessenden and passed resolutions which gave Mr. Bull some uneasiness. He afterward deeded the land back to its former owner, and gave him one year in which to pay the entrance fees.

The first school-house erected in the township was on Sec. 3, which was also used for a church by the Catholics in the vicinity.

In 1843 the township was made a voting precinct. In 1860 the township cast but 120 votes, yet furnished forty-seven men to aid in the suppression of the rebellion. Co. F, of the 75th Ill. Inf., was composed mostly of men from May.

Shortly after the war the German Catholics erected a church, which was named St. Mary's. The Irish Catholics also erected a church on the west side of the town, which surpassed any building of the kind in the vicinity. This building cost about \$9,000.

Among the other institutions in the town of May the academy stands prominent. For this educational advantage the citizens are indebted to Mr. Patrick Riley, who on his death bequeathed his property to his wife until her death, after which it was to be used for the purpose of establishing an academy in May township.

Mr. Riley emigrated from the city of Philadelphia in 1848, and settled on Sec. 23. By economy and hard labor he accumulated a considerable amount of the world's goods. In 1860 Mr. Riley's health began to fail him, and in spite of the efforts of the most skillful physicians, grew rapidly worse, and in 1868 he passed through the dark valley, leaving his property to be used in the establishment of an institution of learning accordingly. The property, consisting of 120 acres of land, was sold by the trustees, Martin McGowan and Patrick



McCann, and the work of constructing the academy was at once entered upon. It was decided to erect it on a piece of land belonging to the estate, on the Rocky Ford and La Moille road, eight miles south from Amboy. The main building is 30 x 48. The L is 16 x 18 feet, and the whole is twenty feet in height. The institution is divided into several different compartments. On the first floor are the school-rooms, music-room, parlor, sitting-room, dining-room and kitchen. On the second floor is the chapel, which is nicely finished and has a vaulted roof. The rest of the upper floor is divided into sleeping-rooms, occupied by pupils who board at the academy. The building is surmounted by an observatory, from which a view of the surrounding country may be had. The seminary was dedicated early in September 1880, and is now occupied by six sisters of the order of Benedictine nuns, who are teaching, in addition to the common branches, German, French, music, and drawing. They receive none but young ladies as boarding scholars, but will admit boys as day pupils. The fact that the school is crowded, together with the universal satisfaction expressed by all whose children attend, is a sufficient guarantee of the success of the institution, and of the great benefit which will undoubtedly be derived from it in years to come.

The soil of this township is rather below the average in productiveness. The population is principally Irish.

#### BIOGRAPHICAL.

JOHN MCGINN, farmer, Amboy, was born in Ireland about 1811. He is the son of William and Bridget (McGuirk) McGinn, and second in a family of seven. About forty years ago he came to Canada and lived a few years. Returning to Ireland, he was married to Mary Jane Montague (deceased 1866), by whom he has had eleven children, eight of whom are living: James F., Marianne (Mrs Millard, widowed and living in New York city), Michael M., Patrick Henry, Joseph, Dilia, Catherine, Margaret. James and Michael McGinn, clergymen in the Catholic church, are living in Philadelphia. In 1860 Mr. McGinn came to the city of New York and engaged in mercantile business till 1876, when he removed to this township and bought the S.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 16, where he has since resided. All but two of his family were born in Ireland. In the old country Mr. McGinn owned forty acres in Ulster, county of Tyrone, besides other property in the same county. He was in a general dry-goods and grocery business in the town of Carrick More, near which his property was situated.

PETER LANNEN, farmer, Amboy, was born in the county of Louth, Leinster province, Ireland, March 1825. He came to New York in 1847, being the first of his family in America. Thence he went to

Berkshire county, Massachusetts, where he worked several years for a farmer. He next came to Prophetstown, Whitesides county, Illinois, and worked two years for a farmer. From there he went to Bureau county and staid five years, thence to May township. He first bought eighty acres in Sec. 19, where he is now living, and built upon it. He now owns the north half of this section. While in Massachusetts he married Mary Smith. Their issue are nine children: Thomas, Bernard, James, Mary Jane, Rose, Peter, Maggie (deceased), Theresa, and Lizzie. Bernard is married and living with his wife and three children in May township. The family belong to the Roman Catholic church. Mr. Lannen is an enterprising man and is devoting his large farm chiefly to dairying. In 1865 he built a good dwelling, at a cost of about \$1,800. His father died when he was only about two years old. His mother was a hundred years old when she died, in 1879, having come to America with her son, Owen, a few years after Peter came. Two of his brothers died in Savannah, Georgia, of the yellow fever, about 1859, having gone there about five years previous.

JOHN DARCY, farmer, Amboy, was born in Cavan county, Ulster, Ireland, in the year 1818; son of Bernard and Mary (Lee) Darcy. His father was a farmer, and died when John was quite young. In 1837 Mr. Darcy came to Canada, landing in Quebec June 15. In the fall of 1838 he started for Cincinnati, but wintered in Toledo, and went the next spring to Chicago. While here he was working most of the time on the canal. In the fall of 1840 he settled in May township, Lee county, and claimed the N.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 23. He built a house the same fall. There were then but two or three dwellings between his and La Moille, Bureau county, and none between his place and East Grove. About this time Mr. Darcy worked a few weeks on the old State railroad, then being graded through May. Mr. Darcy, like many others, received nothing for his labor but some worthless paper issued by a certain A. H. Bongs, of La Salle, who had started a bank there. Mr. Darcy now owns a farm of 280 acres. He was married in 1850, to Margaret Curran, by whom he had two children: John, born in 1851, and Catherine born in 1853. He is now living with his second wife, by whom he has had five children. He is a Catholic; in politics a democrat. He is not ambitious for office, having been once elected justice of the peace and would not have the office.

PATRICK McCANN, farmer, La Moille, was born in the county of Tyrone, Ulster, Ireland, in February 1825. His parents, Arthur and Mary (Hackett) McCann, had four children, of whom he was the youngest, and the only one in the family that left the old country. In June, 1843, he landed in New York; thence he went to Connecticut, working on a farm during the summer, and in the fall came to Peru,

Illinois, and worked for a farmer till December 1844, when he entered the regular army at \$7 per month. He was first sent to Fort Jessup to join his regiment, the 3d Inf. In about three months he was sent to Corpus Christi, where he remained till he was sent to Fort Brown, which he helped to build. He was in Co. F, Capt. Bainbridge, Don Carlos Buell being his first lieutenant. He was with Gen. Taylor in the battles of Palo Alto and Resaca de la Palma May 8 and 9, 1846. After the latter he was made a sergeant in Co. C, of the same regiment. He was in the battle of Monterey in the following September, after which, with the best of Taylor's forces, he was sent to augment Scott's army, then about to begin its march to the city of Mexico. He was at the taking of Vera Cruz, in the fierce fighting at Cerro Gordo, and in all the engagements till the fall of the city of Mexico. He was at El Paso, New Mexico, when his term of five years expired, December 2, 1849. From here he came back to Philadelphia via San Antonio, New Orleans, Wheeling and Baltimore, and went to work on Petty's Island in the Delaware river, between Camden and Philadelphia. In 1852 Mr. McCann came to Illinois to near Bloomington, and began work on the Chicago & Alton railroad, having been married in 1850 to Mary Burns. In the summer of 1853 he worked on the Illinois Central, north and south of Sublette. After this he went to farming; bought the E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of N.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 35, and built a small frame house. He also owns forty acres in Sec. 26, and half a section in Shelby county, Iowa. Mr. McCann has a family of seven living: James, who is married and living in Iowa; Arthur, also in Iowa; Peter F., at school at Niagara, New York; Felix, Mary, Rose Ann, and Kate (one deceased, aged nine months). Mr. McCann and his family are Catholics, and a pleasanter man it has never been our fortune to meet.

ANDREW KESSLER, farmer, Van Orin, Bureau county, was born in Saxe Coburg, Germany, April 1815. He is the second child of John and Dorothea Kessler, whose family consisted of two sons and six daughters. In 1850 Mr. Kessler, with his wife and four children, came to Lee county and settled on Sec. 13, in May township. He owns 120 on the S.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  and 70 acres in Bureau county, nearly opposite. It is all highly valuable land. In 1870 Mr. Kessler put up a fine dwelling at a cost of more than \$2,000. He has an interesting and intelligent family: Kasper, the eldest, is living with his family in Bureau county; Nicholas, Edward with his wife and two children, and Conrad, are all in Nebraska; George is in Bureau county, and John and Sarah are living at home. Margaret, second in the family, died in 1872 or 1873, having about a year before become the wife of Jacob Betz. Julia died in 1870, aged twenty-one years. Besides these, one son died aged eleven years. Mr. Kessler, with his family, belongs to the church

of the Evangelical Association of North America. He is a happy and contented man, and votes the republican ticket.

JOSEPH G. HALL, farmer, Amboy, was born near Birmingham, England, March 1843. His parents were Joseph and Eliza (Haden) Hall. His father, a tanner, came to Philadelphia in 1844, the rest of the family in 1846. The family came in 1857 to May township and settled where "Squire" James Fitzpatrick is now living. In 1862 they moved to Clinton, Illinois, and lived there thirteen years, going from there to Nebraska, where Mr. Hall, sr., died in 1876. He was twice married; he had six children by his first wife and two by the second. Joseph G. Hall enlisted November, 1861, in the 57th Ill. Vols., Co. A. The regiment was mustered at Camp Douglas, and in February, 1862, went to Cairo, Illinois, and from there to Fort Henry, arriving two hours after its surrender. They were at Fort Donelson, at the battle of Shiloh, and the siege of Corinth; at Iuka and around Corinth till the fall of 1863. Mr. Hall was also in the battles of La Grange and Pound Creek, and wintered at Linnville in the winter of 1863-4. From here he went with his regiment to Athens, Alabama, and thence to Chattanooga, and subsequently with Sherman to the sea. He was mustered out at Savannah in December 1864, having been engaged in many heavy battles and weary marches. He was married in October 1867, to Mary E. Ash, only daughter of Geo. Ash. Their issue are Maria Elizabeth, Georgeanna, and Joseph. Since his marriage Mr. Hall has lived on the old Roger Place (also known by other names), in Sec 3, having previously rented in Bureau county.

GEORGE ASH, farmer, Amboy, was born in Devonshire, England, June 1814. He received but little schooling, and this in a night school, though most of his father's large family were quite well educated. His father died on the day of the coronation of Victoria, queen of England. In 1844 he was married to Maria Elliott, of Devonshire, and in 1847 came with his wife and one child to Pennsylvania; worked several years in Phoenixville, Chester county, as an iron-puddler; came to Lee county in 1857, and settled on Sec. 10 of this town, buying fifty acres from Henry Keeling, of Amboy. He has since bought eighty acres in Sec. 9. Mr. Ash has had three children, only one of whom is living. George, the eldest, enlisted in the 46th Ill. Vols., Co. D, Captain Wilder. He was in the battle of Donelson and in the first volley of the first day's fight at Shiloh. In this battle he was killed, not then nineteen years old. William H. died in Pennsylvania, aged eight years; Mary Elizabeth (now Mrs. Hall) was born in 1852. One of Mr. Ash's brothers came to this country two or three years before him, and after living in the State of New York moved to Canada, where he died. Another died in Sublette about the time George Ash came west. He has one brother living in California and a sister in New York.



SILAS W. AVERY, farmer, Amboy, was born in Orleans county, New York, March 1827. He was the eldest child of William and Rachel (Bishop) Avery. He had one brother and two sisters. The former, with his parents, is dead. His sisters are living in New York. When thirteen years of age Mr. Avery began work on the Erie canal at \$10 a month. He continued in this business till he was twenty-three years old, having learned the whole business and received wages ranging from \$10 to \$130 per month. While at this work he saved money enough to buy a home for his parents. This was thirty acres of land in Niagara county, New York, purchased from Governor Hunt. When he had got a deed of this property and settled his parents upon it he spent a considerable time in traveling. He went the entire length of the Ohio and twice down the Mississippi to New Orleans. While coming up the river from that city the second time he was taken sick and went to Cincinnati for treatment. Upon his recovery he started with a companion afoot to Peoria, Illinois. While hunting and fishing along the Illinois river he was taken with the ague and went back to New York, where he spent the winter of 1851. In the following spring he came with Mr. Acker in a carriage, by way of Cleveland and Dayton, Ohio, to Fayette county, Indiana, where in February, 1856, he was married to Caroline Acker, by whom he has a family of nine, living: Adella, born September 1857; Frank, October 1858; Ella V. (wife of Wm. Boyd), March 1860; Mary Jane, July 1862 (deceased June 1880); Sarah, May 1865; Willie F., September 1867; Alice, March 1872; Clara and Carrie (twins), August 1874. In 1857 Mr. Avery came to Maytown and bought the N.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 7 from John Dement. He since bought 200 acres from Ambrose Andrews, on the S.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of Sec. 5, forty acres of which he has sold. He and his family belong to the Methodist Episcopal church of Amboy. For many years Mr. Avery has been prominently identified with Sunday-school work. He is in his second term as justice of the peace. In politics he is a greenback republican. He has been twice married, the first time in the State of New York. By this marriage he had one child, Theodore, born June 14, 1848. This son early evinced a desire to enter the military service, and having obtained the consent of his father, in 1864 he enlisted in the 7th Ill. Cav. as a recruit. He died of the measles the same fall at Springfield, Illinois, while his regiment were still encamped there.

THOMAS BOYD, farmer, Amboy, was born in Ayrshire, Scotland, about 1813. His father's name was Robert, and his mother died when he was young. There were four in the family, he being the eldest. He received a limited education, chiefly in night schools, and worked hard during his boyhood in factories, serving an apprenticeship of five

years to learn the weaver's trade, which he followed for a short time. In 1842 he was married to Mary Stuart. About that time he came to New York city and worked for several years there and in Brooklyn at the molding business, which he had followed but little before. From the east he came to Ogle county and worked about ten years in the Grand Detour plow factory. In 1863 he moved to May township, Lee county, and bought 130 acres in Sec. 8, a part of it from the Illinois Central Railroad Company. Mr. Boyd has had a family of nine children: Robert, John, Mary, Elizabeth (deceased, aged nine years), George (deceased infant), Thomas, Joseph G., William, and Ellen. John enlisted in the 34th Ill. Vols. in the fall of 1862, and was with his regiment till March 1864, when he was taken sick near Rome, Georgia. After being in the hospital for a time he died at home of consumption in the fall of 1864. Robert enlisted in the same regiment when it was organized, and after serving three years came home and spent the winter of 1864-5. He reënlisted in the spring of 1865, and was mustered out at the close of the war. Mary, wife of Hugh Roy, is living in Ogle county; Thomas is living in Wyoming territory, and Joseph in Kansas. Both are married. Mr. Boyd and his family are Methodists, and in politics he is a republican. His father, Robert Boyd, came to New York in 1845. After living there two years he came to Ogle county and bought a farm near Grand Detour, and here he died. He married his second wife about four years before he left the old country.

HUGH FITZPATRICK, farmer, Van Orin, Bureau county, was born in the province of Ulster, Ireland, April 1823. He was the eldest of three children. His parents were James and Mary (McBride) Fitzpatrick. The former died in 1848, the latter in 1835. His sister Ann came to New York in 1845 with some neighbors. She was married in Pennsylvania to John Keefer, who is dead. She is now living in Chicago. The subject of this article landed in New Orleans January 8, 1847. He remained there a few months, and then went to the State of New York. He was three years there and seven in Pennsylvania engaged in railroad construction. Most of this time he was a foreman. He next appeared in May township. He first bought eighty acres from John Dement, on Sec. 19. He now owns the south half of this section. The east half of his farm he bought in 1875, from C. H. Chandler, an early settler, who obtained this land from the government. Mr. Fitzpatrick was married in the fall of 1850 to Ann DeLacy. Of their two sons, James, born October 1850, is living; Bernard, born January 1857, died an infant. The only brother of Hugh came to New York in 1848, and lived there and in Pennsylvania till 1862, when he enlisted in the 16th N. Y. Heavy Art. He died about three months later at

or near Bermuda Hundred, Virginia, from sickness. Mr. Fitzpatrick has held several offices in the town of May. He is a Roman Catholic, and a greenbacker in politics.

PATRICK McMAHON, farmer, Amboy, was born in the county of Limerick, province of Munster, Ireland, in 1818. His father, Thomas McMahon, was a farmer, and for many years held a very respectable position as collector of certain public charges. His wife was Mary O'Brien, by whom he had three children. He died when they were young. Patrick McMahon obtained a good common school education. In July, 1841, he came to Rochester, New York, and worked in a tobacco factory till October 1846. He then went to St. Louis, and lived there till 1849, doing the same work. From St. Louis he went overland to California, returning in 1852 by way of Aspinwall. While west he engaged in mining. In 1853 he came to La Salle, and began a grocery business. In 1856 he removed to Amboy and continued in the same till 1866. At this latter date Mr. McMahon bought from A. G. Moore, of New York, for \$2,000, 120 acres of land, the E.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of N.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  and the N.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of N.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 2, town of May, and began farming. This farm has been much improved since he came onto it. He was married while in St. Louis, in 1847, to Ann Clancey. Of their issue eight are living: Charles, born November 1848; Mary Jane, October 1853; Thomas, March 1855; William, January 1861; Alice, October 1862; Joseph, November 1866; James, November 1868; Maurice, October 1870. Charles and Thomas are living in Marshalltown, Iowa, the former married; and Mary is the wife of William Edwards, Amboy township. Mr. McMahon is a Roman Catholic. He has assessed the town of May since 1875, and previously served two terms as commissioner of highways. He is well educated, and possesses good business qualifications: to this he adds a manner and bearing singularly pleasing and courteous.

WILLIAM CULLEN, farmer, Amboy, was born in Wexford county, province of Leinster, Ireland. His parents were Francis and Mary (Lawless) Cullen, whose family consisted of six children, all of whom have come at different times to this country to live. In 1868 two sisters and a brother came to Utica, Oneida county, New York. The next year the father and William came out to them, and in 1870 the mother and eldest son came. In 1876 William Cullen came to the town of May, Lee county, and bought the E.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of N.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 16. It was unimproved land, there being a fence only on two sides of it. He was married in 1855, to Ellen Converse. Their family are: Mary, Ellen, Delia, Maggie, Johanna, Sarah, and Francis. Kate died about seven years ago, aged thirteen years. Mr. Cullen is sparing no pains to educate his family, and seems fully to realize the importance of such a

course. He used to vote the whig ticket, but is now a democrat, though non-partisan in his views of public matters. The family are Catholics. The mother and father of William Cullen both died in Maytown.

MICHAEL BARRON, farmer, Amboy, was born in Ireland about 1825. He was the youngest but one in a family of nine children. Early in 1865 he came to the city of New York, where he lived about two years. From there he came to Lee county and worked around in May and Amboy townships till 1875. He then bought the N.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of N.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 16 from John Cullen. On this place he is now living. He was never married, and belongs to the Catholic church. Mr. Barron is a remarkably good-natured man. His parents were Michael and Margaret (Whalen) Barron.

WILLIAM DOLAN, farmer, Amboy, was born in the county of Longford, Leinster province, Ireland, April 27, 1810. His parents were Michael and Ellen (Fenny) Dolan, of whose family of six he was the eldest. His great-grandfather's property was confiscated and turned over to a Scotchman named Fatherston, who allowed the Dolans to retain the use of twenty acres of the estate as a freehold. William Dolan received a common school education. In 1828 he was a signer of the British emancipation bill. In April, 1832, he landed in New York, having left his native country on a charge of disloyalty that greater trouble might not befall his father's family. In September he went to Boston, and thence to Lowell, and bound himself out to learn wool spinning. While here he was married to Mary McKenna; he also obtained his naturalization papers through the agency of Ben Butler, then a young legal student in Lowell. In September, 1837, Mr. Dolan arrived in Chicago with nearly \$1,000. He went to laying stone on the canal, and taught school in the winter. In 1840 he came to Lee county and claimed a 160 acres on the E.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of Sec. 14, Maytown. He built on Sandy Hill, Sec. 3, and boarded laborers on the Old Illinois Central road. In 1846 he rented his farm and went to work as foreman in a woolen factory at Lockport, under his previous employer, Mr. Madison, afterward governor of Illinois. In 1850 he returned to his farm, where he has since lived. He has held the office of justice of the peace for many years; was supervisor of May twenty terms. Mr. Dolan is a man of wide information and is known by many eminent men in the State of Illinois. His family are: Edward A., born October 1840; John, October 1842; Mary, April 16, 1847 (wife of Mr. McGuire, died April 1875, in May township); Micheal, September 1849; besides two children who died young. John enlisted in Co. F, 75th Ill. Inf., as 2d sergeant. In the battle of Perryville he became greatly fatigued and was mustered out April



1863, because of physical disability. Edward entered the service in 1862, and was with Gen. Shields till that officer resigned, in 1863.

### MARION TOWNSHIP.

In 1854 a petition was presented to the board of supervisors of Lee county to organize a new township, which at that time composed a part of Amboy and Hamilton. The petition, to which a large number of names was attached, was voted upon and carried, and upon the new township was conferred the historic name of Marion.

The first town meeting was held in April 1855.

The first supervisor was Alford Wolcott; first assessor Sherman W. Caldwell; first justices, Abram Morrison and A. S. Phillips; first town clerk, Simon Dykman; first collector, David Morrison.

The first permanent settler in Marion township was David Welty, who had formerly been a merchant in Buffalo, New York. Being in poor health, his physicians advised him to come west, and in 1838 he came to Lee county and located on Sec. 34, in what was then Hamilton township, and now Marion.

In the same year came W. H. Blair, who located on Sec. 24.

In 1841 J. C. Haly, a native of Pennsylvania, located on Sec. 13.

In 1846 R. Scott, a native of Scotland, settled on Sec. 15.

When the question of voting bonds to the railroad came before the people of Marion, it was carried in the negative by an almost unanimous vote.

In 1876, through the efforts of Messrs. Conderman, Jones and McCrystal, a station was located in the central part of the town, which is now known as Walton. This station is composed of one large elevator, one store, one blacksmith and wagon shop.

In the early part of January, 1870, one Spangler shot and killed Timothy Kane. Both were farmers and residents of Marion. The trouble between them arose from a dispute about some cattle. Kane's cattle had broken into Spangler's field, and the latter had shut them up in a lot, where they had been but a short time when Kane came and demanded their release. High words passed between the men, and Kane finally attempted to drive the cattle out of the lot, whereupon Spangler seized a gun secreted near at hand and shot and killed him. Spangler was afterward tried in Dixon, and acquitted on the ground of self defense.

The soil of Marion township is a sandy loam, and is as productive as any in the country. The land is mostly level or gently rolling.

The log cabins and board shanties of the early settlers have mostly disappeared, and in their stead are seen pleasant and tasty dwellings.

School buildings are numerous, and the rising generation of the township have as good educational advantages as could be desired.

The population of Marion is largely Irish, and politically is democratic.

GEORGE KEITH, farmer, Dixon, was born in Aberdeenshire, Scotland, May 7, 1818. His parents were George and Mary (Mills) Keith. Young George came to America and landed in Halifax, May 1841, on his birthday, which event he inaugurated by getting "how-come-you-so," through the machinations of some of the sailors on board. He worked in Halifax some three years at gardening, and was married to Miss Ann Eddie April 1844. She was also a native of Scotland, and died in this township in 1875, at about sixty years of age. Mr. Keith moved to York state from Halifax, then to Michigan, and to Illinois in 1845, working a number of years in the nursery business at Rockford, when, after losing several thousand dollars by an unscrupulous party, he left and finally located in Marion township in the winter of 1861-2, and after paying his board to Mr. Brooks he had the magnificent sum of four cents in his pocket with which to support a wife and eight children. To cap his misfortunes, the second day after his arrival his children were taken sick with intermittent fever, lasting several weeks, he having been their attending physician. By his ministering care he landed them safely from the sick bed to health, and they are all living and well to-day. By his indomitable energy he has come out of his misfortunes and now has under cultivation a 240-acre tract. The children are as follows: Mary Ann, George, William, Margaret, Ellen, Frank, Fred, and Jemima.

ARTHUR MCCRYSTAL, Walton, son of William and Ann McCrystal, was born in county Tyrone, Ireland, in 1837. In 1842 he came with his father to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, district of Richmond, and there received his education. In 1855 he came with his father to Lee county. His father bought land in N.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 22, in Marion township. Arthur was supervisor two years, and in 1877 was the greenback candidate for sheriff, and received 890 votes. Mr. McCrystal was married in 1868, to Miss Bridget Sheridan, also a native of Ireland. He is a prosperous farmer and also quite a prominent politician.

BENJAMIN BROOKS, Dixon, son of Asa and Dorcas Brooks, was born in Tolland county, Connecticut, where he resided until forty-five years of age. During his residence there he was engaged in farming and lumbering. In 1840 Mr. Brooks was elected to the legislature from his district, which position he held for one year. In the spring of 1856 he came to Lee county and bought W.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of N.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 9. Since that time he has been a prominent citizen of Marion township. He served several terms as supervisor, and during the rebellion

took an active part in raising troops to aid in the suppression of the rebellion, besides contributing largely out of his private funds. Mr. Brooks was married in 1829, to Miss Martha Wilbur, by whom he had eight children, of which two only are living.

**CHARLES E. ABELL**, Walton. The subject of this sketch is the son of Jabez L. and Sarah Abell, and was born in Middlesex county, Connecticut, in 1849. He resided there until seven years of age, when he moved with his father's family to De Kalb county, Illinois, and remained ten years. At the end of that time he came to Marion township and bought land in Sec. 11. In the fall of 1874 Mr. Abell moved to the village of Harmon, where he spent three years in teaching school. In 1877 he returned to Marion township and engaged in the dry-goods and grocery business at Walton Station, and is also buying grain at that place. He was married in 1873, to Miss Lydia A. Rathburn, a native of Lee county.

**JAMES R. HAWKINS**, Amboy, son of John R. and Lucretia Hawkins, was born in Lorain county, Ohio, in 1849. He remained there until eight years of age, when he came with his father to Lee county. His father purchased land in Secs. 8 and 10, in East Grove township, where he made his home until his death, which occurred in 1855. On March 3, 1865, Mr. Hawkins enlisted in Co. E, 7th Ill. Cav., and was discharged November 7 of the same year, and since that time has been engaged in farming in East Grove township.

**FRANKLIN H. CHURCH**, Walton, son of Elisha and Rhoda Church, was born in Broome county, New York, in 1825. He resided in his native county until twenty-nine years of age. In 1854 he came to Dixon and engaged in a store as clerk, in which position he continued for eight months, and afterward engaged at various pursuits during his residence of two years in Dixon. In 1856 he came to Marion township and bought land in Sec. 2, where he has since that time resided. Mr. Church was married in 1852, to Miss Hannah Waters, also a native of New York.

### PALMYRA TOWNSHIP.

This township is situated in the extreme northwest of Lee county, being bounded on the west by Whitesides county, on the north by Ogle county, on the east by Dixon township, and on the south by Rock river. It embraces the southern  $\frac{2}{3}$  of T. 22 N., and the N. W.  $\frac{1}{3}$  of T. 21 N., R. 8 E. of the 4th P. M. Beginning at the northwest corner of the county the boundary line runs east on the county line between Ogle and Lee counties, to the line between ranges 8 and 9 east; and thence south on said line to its junction with Rock river; thence down said



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river, southwest to the county line between Whitesides and Lee counties; thence north on said line to the place of beginning; making the township six miles wide from west to east, while the irregularity of the southern boundary on the river, from the northeast to the southwest, contracts the eastern boundary to four and a half miles, and extends the western line to near nine miles in length; embracing an area of about 4,640 acres.

*A topographical description* of this township is introduced by one of her citizens, who dashes off like a laughing school-boy on a cold December morning, as follows: "Connect not the name with visions of shady groves of waving palms, with bubbling fountains and breezes laden with the scent of the myrtle and orange, the lime and the almond; none such are to be found in the place whose history I am recording, and such visions would soon fade before the furious blasts of our northern winters, with the air filled with snowflakes, and the leafless trees swaying under fierce assaults of Boreas. No warlike Zenobia leads us on to victory, but in her stead we follow the milder divinities, Ceres, Pomona, and Flora. Think not, however, because we can boast of none of these things in which lie the beauty of ancient Palmyra, the modern has no charms of her own. These are to be found in her broad, fertile plains, once covered with a profusion of juicy grasses and flowers of every brilliant hue, in her stately groves of maple and walnut, of ash and oak, in the impetuous rush of the crystal Rock river, rolling her tide to join the Father of Waters, her surface broken with the sportive gambols of bass and perch, the leaping sturgeon and rushing pike—and even in the silver thread of Sugar creek, which once could boast of turning a saw-mill."

The physical geography of the township is not of special interest, apart from its attractions to the agriculturist who seeks a home on fertile soil and in a salubrious atmosphere. The face of the country is gently rolling, and in places presents to the eye the appearance of the swelling and receding of the great waves of the ocean. Along the Rock river it becomes bluff, and in places rugged; but not so grand and precipitous as on the Ohio river, or the streams of the northwest.

The drainage is good, presenting the land in the most favorable condition for cultivation, embracing almost every acre of her soil. The greatest portion of the township is drained by Sugar creek, which enters on the north, meandering southward to the central portion of the township, passing through Sugar Grove, then westward emerging from the township three miles south of the northwest corner of the county. This stream drains the northern, central, and western portion of the township, and supplies running water to the many cattle that graze upon its banks on the beautiful farms through which it flows.

The eastern and southern portion of the township is drained by Rock river and small tributaries that mingle their waters with those of that stream.

Palmyra township was well supplied with timber, maple, sugar and soft wood, oak of different species, black walnut, ash and poplar. The southeast quarter of the township bordering on the river is covered with forest, while Sugar Grove covers three or four sections northwest of the township. The timber supply in the days of pioneer history of the country was of much importance; indeed, it was a necessity, as there was no means of access to coal supply as fuel or means of transportation of lumber but by teams across the prairie from Chicago, as it was conveyed for some of the first frame buildings in Dixon. The first settlements were along the borders of the forest groves. This natural provision in Palmyra induced many of the first emigrants to the county to settle within her borders in preference to the prairie townships. The soil of Palmyra is adapted to a variety of agricultural products, wheat, corn, rye, oats, among the staple grains; clover and timothy grasses furnishing good pasturage and fodder. Garden products grow luxuriantly and of the finest quality. The geological deposits of the township are valuable to the mechanics and arts of the country. The finest building-stones are found along the river, those most valued being in the neighborhood of "Hazelwood Farm," formerly owned by "Gov." Charters, three miles above Dixon. Besides the valuable quarries which furnish stone for building purposes and quicklime manufacture are found gravel-pits along the river, most valuable for macadamizing improvements. The attractions of Palmyra are many to lovers of a rural home. The broad, rolling prairies, shady groves and running brooks of her interior, and her rounded hills and forest-covered bluffs along river borders, furnish great attractions for a country home.

#### EARLY HISTORY.

In a letter to the "Dixon Sun," afterward published in the "History of Dixon and Palmyra," the writer says: "The first settlers in the town of Palmyra were the Morgan family, old Mr. Morgan and his sons Harvey and John, with whom came Benjamin Stewart. This was in the spring of 1834, two years after the war with the Sacs and Foxes. The only white man in this part of the county was Mr. John Dixon, settled at Dixon's Ferry. Numbers of Indians, principally Winnebagoes, still remained here, hunting in bands through the country, having their headquarters at Prophetstown and Freeport. They were, however, quite peaceable, though occasionally stealing a few potatoes or some corn. The Morgans and Stewart settled on the south side of Sugar Grove, and in the autumn of the same year and early in 1835

several others came in, Wright and Tomlin, of the present Myers' farm; Capt. Oliver Hubbard; John H. Page and Fellows; Absalom Fender with a large family, and W. W. Bethea; Daniel Obrist and Mr. Thummel, a brother of the C. B. Thummel; Harris; Keplinger; Nathan Morehouse; Sales; Thomas, with his two sons, Enoch and Noah, who settled in the southwest corner of the town, in Walnut Grove; two brothers, Sandy and Elkanah Bush, and Martin Richardson. Of all these early settlers there only remain at present, living in the town, Mrs. Tilton, the widow of Capt. Hubbard, and W. W. Bethea. E. B. Bush and Tomlin were the first justices of the peace. Bush, however, never qualified. They were succeeded by Harvey Morgan and W. W. Bethea. 'Squire Morgan remained for many years the factotum of the town, serving as justice of the peace, probate justice and town clerk. The first teaching of the young idea, not how to shoot, for that was learned readily enough, but of the mysteries of the alphabet, was given by Mrs. Hubbard, but no regular school was established until 1838, when a frame building, never finished, was put up. In order to accommodate the greater number this was built in the center of Sugar Grove, about a mile and a half from any dwelling. Here for two winters 'Squire Bethea birched the boys and coaxed the girls.

"E. B. Bush was the first postmaster. I suppose his duties in the wilderness were not very onerous. He had, however, a deputy by the name of Kellogg at Buffalo Grove. Martin Richardson told me that on one occasion Bush was going to settle with his deputy, and, said he, 'As he thought old man Kellogg was kind of ugly and might cut up rough, he would have me go 'long with him, and said I must carry a pistol. I never felt so mean in my life. I kept a rammin' the thing into my pocket, but it would keep a pokin' out, and I thought everyone I met would see what I was carrying.' However, old man Kellogg did not cut up rough, and they had no occasion to use the pistol. This Richardson was a most favorable specimen of the western pioneer, an excellent farmer, the best of neighbors, and the most liberal of men, yet he dearly loved a free fight, where everyone was at liberty to 'go in.' I remember on one occasion, when he was no longer young, a young fellow by the name of Heickus commenced blackguarding him while he was engaged in pulling a ferry-boat, thinking himself safe, as Richardson was some distance from the shore. The old man jumped into the river, waded ashore, ran down Heickus, and seizing him by his flowing hair administered several hearty kicks. Sued before the squire he was fined \$5. 'This,' said Heickus, as he put the money in his pocket, 'will buy my wife a new dress.' 'Yes,' said Richardson, 'and, by ginger! the next time I tell you I will clothe the whole family.'

"Our infant settlement, in spite of an occasional scrimmage, the



greatest cordiality prevailed among the few inhabitants of the town. Old settlers always look back with fondness to the good old times when such universal friendly feeling existed. The prairie once broken, the crops grew almost without labor, as there were so few weeds and the land so fertile. What few supplies they needed, or could afford, such as flour or groceries, were hauled by ox teams from Peoria, and their own produce brought a high price among the miners in Galena. Some of the new-comers brought nothing with them but mouths to feed. Of such was Sales, of Sales' Spring. To buy a bushel of corn he had to split one hundred rails. Taking his corn home he cut a hole in a log, over which he fastened a spring pole with an iron wedge inserted in the end of it. Working the pole up and down, he mashed the corn; then sifting it, the finer portions he used for meal and the coarser for hominy. He was a great hunter, and as game was very abundant, the river full of fish and covered with ducks and geese, he and his family suffered no lack. There was no grist-mill nearer than Peoria, until Joseph Wilson, an old Brandywine miller, came to settle on the Elkhorn creek, when the settlers turned out in a body and put up a log mill on the Elkhorn a short distance above the present mill. It was a rough looking structure, but I have never tasted finer flour than Joe Wilson made from the splendid winter wheat of those days. Until flouring-mills were erected in Dixon, however, owing to the dryness of the creeks in summer we were often obliged to go as far as Aurora, on the Fox river, to get wheat ground.

"Dan. Obrist was drowned while seining in Elkhorn creek, and was succeeded by his brother, Abram, who put up a saw-mill on Sugar creek. This was a great accommodation to the settlers, who could thus get flooring and door and window frames for their log houses, instead of having to hew them. They could even build frame barns, the first, I believe, being built and is still standing on the Seavey place, then owned by Ben Stewart. On these occasions the whole settlement would be called upon to help raise. There would be lots of hog and hominy washed down by copious libations of Fred. Dutcher's pure corn whisky, and the barn would be duly raised and then christened by breaking a bottle over the purlin plate, Abner Moon or Ruben Eastwood being generally chosen to perform this ceremony on account of their stentorian voices."

The first attempt at manufacturing was made by Mr. E. B. Bush, mentioned above, who built a saw-mill, and also an oil-mill for the manufacture of castor and linseed oil. To obtain grist for his oil-mill he induced a number of the neighboring farmers to devote a large portion of their lands to raising flaxseed and castor-oil beans, promising them a dollar a bushel for either of these products. This, in those

days of moneyed scarcity, seemed a sure road to fortune, and we went at it with a will. The crop was a splendid one, but in the absence of threshing machines, how to separate the seed from the flax was the query. We tried tramping it out with horses, as we did the wheat and oats, but the flax was soon trodden into ropes which entangled the horses' feet, and we had finally to abandon it altogether. Nor were we more successful with the castor beans; some small quantity was gathered in baskets, and as they were pleasant to the eye and the palate, many children required no more castor oil that season. About the time of harvesting the beans Bush's money gave out, and the bulk of the crop rotted on the ground. He had taken in as a partner a young man whose contribution to the joint stock was a colt valued at thirty dollars and muscle for the hard work. When the business failed this partner sued him for wages, and the case being referred "to three men," as was the custom of the day, they awarded him half wages. This was in 1841, and was, I believe, the first attempt at manufacturing in our neighborhood.

"A man bearing the name of Smith was the first blacksmith in the settlement. He soon left and was followed by James Carley, who for many years shod the horses, sharpened the ploughs, sighted the rifles, and did all the thousand and one jobs of tinkering that the people could not do for themselves. He was a most skillful workman and a great power in the settlement, for on the approach of winter there would be such a demand for his services in shoeing horses that turns would be engaged sometimes a week in advance, and woe betide the man that did not stand high in his good graces. Carley took his pay in kind—wheat, corn, pork, etc.—and consequently, though burning his own charcoal, he furnished no iron, and it exercised all his ingenuity to convert the various scraps that were brought to him into the required shoe, etc. I remember on one occasion his usual blasphemy found unusual vent at being required to forge a horseshoe out of a broken monkey-wrench. A curious attachment existed between Carley and a poor slave of the bottle by the name of Beach. This Beach belonged to a highly respectable family in the east, and had received an excellent business education. He kept Carley's books, which were models of neatness. He also blew the bellows and fetched the whisky from Dixon. Old settlers will ever remember this mass of rags and pimples, his head crowned with a dilapidated old stove-pipe, always filled with greasy newspapers, which he greedily devoured when he had leisure.

"By the spring of 1840 the settlement had gained considerable accession to its members and contained about sixty voters. In addition to those I have already named, there were four families of Martins, two of Powers (distinguished as Yankee and Kentuck), two of Law-

rences, Graham, Law, Baker, Hutton, Gaston, Holly, Coe, Muller, two of Johnsons, Parks, Beede, and some others.

"The failure of the United States Bank had caused numbers of local banks to spring into existence, which flooded the country with their worthless paper, and gave great apparent prosperity to the country; but by the year 1840 all of these, together with the State Bank of Illinois, had passed out of existence, and hard times set in. Emigration was checked, and there being no longer any demand nearer than Chicago for the surplus produce the price of wheat fell from \$2 per bushel to 25 and 30 cents, corn from a dollar to 10 cents, beef and pork to 1½ and 2 cents per pound, and even these prices were nominal, wheat being the only article that would sell for cash. This was hauled to Chicago in loads of thirty and forty bushels, and sold for 63 to 75 cents. The farmer generally took with him his own provisions, grain for his horses, scythe, axe and auger; slept under his wagon; and calculated that the trip, which generally required a week, should cost him nothing but his time. Some were fortunate enough to secure a return load from the store-keeper, at the rate of 40 cents per hundred pounds, for a distance of 116 miles. The proceeds of the trip were carefully hoarded for the land sale. But if profits were small, expenses were equally small. Few had a hundred dollars invested in farm machinery. Beyond the iron in the plowshare, the steel in the hoe, axe, scythe, and blade of the "turkey-wing cradle," all was of wood, and generally home-made. Taxes were merely nominal, three commissioners, an assessor and collector doing all the business of the county. I have an old tax receipt for \$1.50 in full on a farm of 420 acres, fairly stocked for that day.

"A man dressed as his fancy dictated, some entirely in buckskin of their own tanning. The appearance of one figure I shall never forget as he went about dressed in the remains of what had been a bright-colored dressing-gown, the gift of a city friend; on his head a coon-skin cap, with the tail hanging down between his shoulders; moccasins, and a long rifle, with spotted fawnskin pouch.

"But enough of the old days; Palmyra has her full share of the prosperity of the country which she has aided so largely to develop. The log houses of the early settlers have given place to numerous tasty dwellings and commodious barns. The many neatly painted school-houses show the regard paid to education. Among them is a fine brick building, intended as a graded school, put up at a cost of \$2,000. On the grounds in front of this stands the monument erected to the memory of those sons of Palmyra whose blood enriched the southern battle-fields—sons who Palmyra has always freely given when her country called for them. In addition to the usual country

shops, Mr. John Lord, a son of one of the early settlers, has built up from small beginnings an extensive wagon and carriage shop, which from the excellence of the material and workmanship has attained a great reputation as well outside as in the town. Mr. Abijah Powers, a settler of '38, has not only added many fair acres to the original claim, but he was the first to introduce the fine short-horn cattle into the county, and has now a numerous herd. For many years the farmers were a rich source of plunder to the numerous fire insurance companies, but in 1865 the Palmyra Fire Insurance Company was originated by an association of a few farmers. This company, which insures nothing but farm property and country school buildings, is managed by a president, secretary and treasurer and thirteen managers. It has insurance on \$965,175 worth of property. Insures for \$3 per \$1,000, with membership fee of \$1. The insurance is perpetual and there is no further demand on the insured except in case of loss by fire, when a pro rata assessment is laid. How slight this tax is may be judged from the fact that in the eleven years of its existence the total assessments have not yet reached one per cent.

"In these western towns, settled by persons from so many foreign countries and parts of the Union, the effects of our form of government and institutions are seen in the most favorable light. Here the poor emigrant, finding no bar to the acquisition of property and pursuit of happiness, rapidly develops into the well-to-do American citizen. The New Englander losing his narrowness, while retaining his thrift and intelligence, finds here a wider field for their exercise, and the Southerner, still liberal, acquires industry, economy and education."

Justices of the peace and constables of Palmyra township from 1839:

## MAGISTRATES.

1839. Levi Gaston.	1863. W. W. Tilton.
1839. W. W. Bethea.	1863. W. W. Bethea.
1843. Mathias Schick.	1867. W. W. Tilton.
1843. W. W. Bethea.	1867. W. W. Bethea.
1847. Henry A. Coe.	1871. W. W. Bethea.
1847. James M. Johnson.	1871. W. W. Tilton.
1851. W. W. Bethea.	1874. W. W. Tilton.
1851. W. W. Tilton.	1874. W. W. Bethea.
1855. W. W. Bethea.	1877. W. W. Bethea.
1855. Mathias Schick.	1877. Benjamine Stauffer.
1859. W. W. Bethea.	1881. Benjamine Stauffer.
1859. Mathias Schinck.	1881. Alfred Beede.



## CONSTABLES.

1839. E. H. Johnson.	1863. No record.
1839. D. P. Cantrall.	1863. No record.
1843. Martin Fender.	1867. No record.
1843. W. W. Tilton.	1867. No record.
1847. James M. Johnson.	1871. No record.
1847. W. W. Tilton.	1871. No record.
1851. Charles Columbia.	1877. David W. Stevens.
1851. William V. Mason.	1877. Robert J. Dryman.
1854. Charles A. Martin.	1881. Robert J. Dryman.
1854. Dana L. Columbia.	1881. David W. Stevens.
1859. No record.	

## PRAIRIEVILLE.

This village is located about seven miles north of west of the city of Dixon, in the western part of Palmyra township, on the N.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of N.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 5, in T. 21 N., R. 8 E., of the 4th P.M., at the intersection of the Dixon and Sterling road by the Sterling and Polo road. It was located by Messrs. Abijah Powers, Phillip Schoek, Samuel Shaw, and Windthrop Seavey, and surveyed by Milton Santee, April 10, 1855.

There was located on this site a smith-shop by Mathias Schick as early as 1843. The present smith-shop is conducted by Furley Brothers. The first store was opened by Elisha Ryder seven or eight years ago, which was followed in a year or two later by another, opened by Charles Furley, both of which are still in operation. The village school-house is a two-story brick structure surrounded by a belfry. The interior is divided into four apartments for the accommodation of the several school departments. It is a beautiful edifice, reflecting credit upon the intelligence of the community in which it stands. It is located in a pleasant, shady lawn. In the front of the school-grounds stands the soldier monument, erected to the honor of the sons of Palmyra who died in the service of their country during the war of the rebellion, and on which their names are engraved. It is of marble, and was built at a cost of \$800 or \$900, which was met by voluntary subscriptions from the citizens of Palmyra township.

There is a new church edifice, which is occupied alternately by the Congregational and Lutheran denominations. The first Congregational preaching in the neighborhood was in 1846, by Rev. Amnon Gaston, brother to Levi Gaston, now residing in Palmyra. Mr. Gaston preached for the congregation at this place and at the Gap for seven or eight years, and has since deceased.

The Lutheran church was first represented in this vicinity by Rev.

C. B. Thummel, who commenced preaching for the society about 1846, and continued with the society up to 1877, when he preached his semi-centennial sermon, retiring from the active ministry.

#### BIOGRAPHICAL.

JOHN C. JACOBS. Great events in every career are those that stand as landmarks to point the route of the traveler as he has made his way slowly but surely from incipency to manhood's ripest years. There is no completely written life. But grasping here and there a fact and adjusting them as a continuous set of lenses, one can look through them and see the smaller acts, the finer threads of principle that have made the life what it is or what it has been. In business, as in war, there are constant promotions of the successful operator, and each promotion is a victory won, for "Peace hath her victories no less than war." The parents of John C. Jacobs were Corbin and Mary (Rice) Jacobs, both natives of Fredericktown, Maryland, and of English descent. Corbin Jacobs was a contractor and builder. He was a superior workman, having superintended the erection of many buildings around Harper's Ferry, handsome residences and large church edifices. In the early days of Ohio he moved from Maryland and settled near Chillicothe, Ohio, but later returned to his native state, where he died September 17, 1832, aged forty-four years. He was a very prominent member of the Episcopal church. He served in the war of 1812. His brothers were John, who died in 1869 near Dayton, Ohio, his home, and Lenox Compton (a half brother), who died in 1879, also at his home near Dayton. Mrs. Corbin Jacobs was spared to aid her son, John C., in rearing the family of six children: Benjamin L., John C., Oliver C., Maria, Ann Virginia and William F. She died November 4, 1844, in Maryland. Benjamin L. became military director of railroads in the south, and died in 1863. William F. graduated at William and Mary's College, became an Episcopal minister and died in 1867. Ann V. died in 1877, and Maria died in 1878, leaving as survivors John C. and Oliver C., the latter of whom is now a thrifty farmer near Palmyra, Missouri. The principal character in this sketch is John C. Jacobs, whose birth happened November 15, 1819, near Chillicothe, Ohio. He was three years of age when his parents returned to Maryland. The death of his father left John at the age of thirteen years as the chief support of the family; reverses in building contracts having proved serious to the fortune of the elder Jacobs. John immediately applied himself to such labor as came within his ability. He worked one year on a farm for \$15 and clothes, at the end of which year he received as his savings \$2.50, which he expended in five bushels of potatoes at fifty cents a bushel. He continued his

labors on the farm for a time, and when not farming earned what he could with his ax chopping wood by the cord, or doing other job work. In 1863 he cared for a team of horses for the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Packet Company till the canal froze, when he resumed his wood chopping. It was about this time that a circumstance happened that probably shaped the beginning of a successful career for young Jacobs. His Uncle, Lenox Compton, then of Ohio, offered the lad 160 acres of land and promised to aid him in starting. Friends and mother advised the boy to accept his uncle's offer, and to start immediately overland and on foot 400 miles to Dayton. The day approached for his departure from home. He weighed every hope and doubt. How would his mother and children live without his help, although meager as it was? How could he get aid to his mother if he should be successful? for there were no railroads then. Suddenly he resolved not to go Ohio but to stay with his mother, brothers and sisters, earn what he could and care for them as far as possible, let come what would. He made known his resolve to his mother, began his labors afresh and with renewed determination. April 3, 1837, he began work on the Baltimore & Ohio railroad between Point of Rocks and Harper's Ferry, at eighty-seven and a half cents a day. Flour at that time was \$13 a barrel, so that a month's work barely provided necessaries. Death (by accident) of a brakeman, November 10 following, made a vacancy, and young Jacobs was promoted to the position with a slight advance in wages. In June following the removal of the train deprived him of this place, and his work was such as supplying engines with fuel etc. In the fall of 1838 he became fireman on an engine at \$45 per month, when each month seemed a harvest to him. As times were good or bad his wages were somewhat changed. After one year's service on the main line he was sent to the Washington branch between Washington and Baltimore. In the fall of 1842 he became a locomotive engineer at \$2 a day, running also west of Harper's Ferry to Cumberland hauling iron for construction. After five years in that position he controlled an engine employed in assisting passenger trains and heavily loaded engines over grades etc. between Hancock and Harper's Ferry till 1850, his wages having reached \$2.25 per day. Mr. Jacobs next became supervisor of engines between Baltimore and Cumberland, the company having at that time 207 locomotives. In 1853 he was sent to Kingwood tunnel to hasten the business of construction of the road and cutting of the tunnel, receiving now \$130 per month. He was then kept mostly west of Cumberland, and aided in the construction of the road at Board Tree tunnel. After the completion of the road he became train-master and supervisor of engines on the same road between Piedmont and Wheeling, continuing till

September 1856, when the Illinois Central Railroad Company offered him his present position. He severed his connection with the Baltimore & Ohio Company September 30, and starting west arrived at Amboy, Illinois, October 8, 1856, and assumed the superintendency of the north division from Centralia to Dubuque, including 347 miles of road. A successful career of nearly a half century from penury to very comfortable circumstances, a career in which many incidents have happened that cannot be recorded here, finds Mr. Jacobs yet able, apparently, for many years' useful labor. A quarter of a century's residence in Amboy and Lee county has made him many warm friends, especially among the employes of the Illinois Central railroad. Mr. Jacobs was married November 4, 1846, to Harriet A. Hough, daughter of Samuel H. Hough, of Middletown, Connecticut. She was born January 21, 1821. The children of Mr. and Mrs. Jacobs are Molly H., who died September 27, 1868, aged twenty years; John C. (died when young); William F. and Charles C., both of whom have positions on the road.

One of the earliest as well as one of the most esteemed and distinguished names which is met with in the search for biographical data in Palmyra township is that of Page; and although no direct representative of the family now resides within the township, yet the respect and confidence which all who bore the name won and merited from their fellow-townsmen will not fade for many a year. JOHN H. PAGE, now deceased, was one of several natives of Stratford county, New Hampshire, who came to Palmyra at a very early day and took up a residence there. Stephen Fellows and James T., William and Jacob Martin were also members of this colony, all coming within a year or two of each other. Mr. Page was born at Rochester, New Hampshire, in 1806, and was the grandson of Joseph, and the son of David and — (Ham) Page. His mother was descended from a family who located at Bangor, Maine, at an early period. Mr. Page was brought up and received a common school education at Sandwich, New Hampshire, and following in the footsteps of his father, on arriving at manhood he became a farmer; but being ambitious and energetic, he decided to abandon the sterile and rocky soil of the Granite State and seek a more fruitful reward of his labors upon the fertile prairies of Illinois. He reached Lee county in the fall of 1834 and located upon government land in the township of Palmyra. He built himself a log house, it being the second or third erected in the town, and engaged in farming, and continued on the same farm until 1868, when he sold out and removed to Menlo, Iowa, where he died in 1870. Mr. Page was first married at Sandwich, New Hampshire, in 1833, to Miss Julia M. Fellows, daughter of Stephen Fellows, who removed to Lee county at the same time with



his daughter and son-in-law. Mrs. Page died at Palmyra in 1856, and in 1858 Mr. Page was again married, to Mrs. Sarah B. (Jenness) Wiggin. The result of the union of John H. and Julia (Fellows) Page was eight children, four of whom are still living, three sons and one daughter. The former, George H., David S. and William B., all reside in Europe, and the daughter, Julia M., is the widow of the late James W. Harris, of Lee county. George H., eldest son of John H. Page, was the first child born in the town of Palmyra, that event occurring on May 16, 1836. He acquired a common school education in his native town and was then sent to the seminary at Mount Vernon, Iowa, (now known as Cornell College,) of which his uncle, Samuel Fellows, was one of the founders and the first principal. Another uncle, Stephen N. Fellows, was a teacher in the same institution. After leaving school Mr. Page engaged in farming for a short time, but soon after the outbreak of the rebellion obtained a clerkship in the war department at Washington, where he remained for three years. In 1866 he went to Switzerland, and in company with his brothers Charles A. and David S. he embarked in the business of condensing milk, which was the first undertaking of the kind in Europe, and which has proved an immense success. The business has grown from almost nothing to a trade of over \$3,000,000 per year, and is now carried on by a joint stock company having a capital of \$2,000,000, with six factories in Switzerland and England, and offices at London and Paris. Geo. H. Page is the general manager of the company, and his brother David S. is assistant general manager, both residing at Cham, Switzerland. The youngest brother, William B., also holds a position under the company. During some years of his residence in that country Mr. Geo. H. Page held the position of vice-consul at Zurich, Switzerland. He was married in 1875, to Miss Adelheid Swerzmann, of Zoug, Switzerland, and has one son, Fred H. Page, aged five years. At the time of this writing Mr. Page is in Dixon visiting relatives and friends and renewing the associations of his youth. After a few months' sojourn in the United States he intends returning to Switzerland, but with no intention of residing permanently outside of his native country. It is proper in this connection that mention should be made of the career of Charles A. Page, the second son of John H. Page. He was born in Palmyra, May 22, 1838, and his early career was like that of his brother George. After graduating from Cornell College, he was for a year editor of a newspaper published at Mount Vernon, Iowa; he then obtained a clerkship in the fifth auditor's office of the treasury department, Washington, where he remained some three or four years, when he became attached to the New York "Tribune" as a correspondent. During the war he accompanied the army of the Potomac as a field correspondent for the "Tribune," and

the vivid descriptions and graphic delineations of the marches and battles, the defeats and triumphs of that heroic army published in the "Tribune" over the initials "C. A. P." will be well remembered by the older readers of that paper. He also was one of the party accompanying the remains of President Lincoln to their last resting-place at Springfield. During the summer of 1865 he was appointed consul at Zurich, Switzerland, and held this office four years, when he became the manager of the Anglo-Swiss Condensed Milk Company's London office, which company he had been instrumental in forming, and held that position until his death on May 26, 1873. He was married in 1868, to Miss Grace D. Cones, of Washington, D. C., and his widow and four surviving children now reside in that city. The career of these brothers is another illustration of the business energy and pluck which characterizes the young men of this country. Reared on a farm in what was then the Far West they struck out courageously, and have succeeded in establishing by their ability and enterprise an immense business in the heart of over-crowded Europe, and which not only brings fortune and reputation to themselves, but is the source from which hundreds of others derive a comfortable existence.

FREDERICK N. PARKS, farmer, Palmyra, is a native of the township, being born there on September 22, 1849, and is a son of Hiram P. and Martha (Moon) Parks, and both on his father's and mother's side is related to some of the earliest settlers of the township, both families having located in Palmyra some forty-five years ago. All of Mr. Parks' life has been spent in Palmyra, and ever since he was able to be of assistance on the farm he has followed that calling. For the past ten years he has been engaged in farming for himself. He was married on February 7, 1872, to Miss Maria N. Sheeley, a resident of Guthrie, Iowa. Last winter Mr. and Mrs. Parks met with a severe blow in the death of their beloved and only child at the age of four years. Politically Mr. Parks is a republican.

WILLIAM MILLER, deceased, Palmyra, was a native of Germany, and was born there in 1801. His parents were Frederick J. and Cecilia Miller. His youth was passed in his native country, and in 1832 he came to America and settled at Philadelphia, where he remained until 1841, when he moved to Lee county, and purchased a farm in Palmyra township, where he died May 1, 1871. He married Miss Anna Obrist, whose death occurred December 26, 1872. Henry E. Miller, son of the above, is a native of Palmyra, having been born there on December 22, 1844. His whole life has been spent in his native town, and on the death of his father he took charge of the farm, and has since carried it on. He was married on December 25, 1869, to Miss Margaret Levan, of South Dixon, and has four children living: Charles M., aged seven; Martha F.,

aged five; Edward H., aged three years, and John F., an infant son. Mr. Miller is a steadfast republican, and a member of the Lutheran church.

GEORGE A. TUCKER, farmer, Palmyra, was born in Otsego county, New York, on May 7, 1849, and is the son of Hervey and Catharine E. (Arnold) Tucker. His father was a farmer, and died in the State of New York in the spring of 1865. His mother is now a resident of Palmyra. After completing his education Mr. Tucker engaged in farming in Otsego county, but when twenty-two years of age removed to Lee county, and settled in Palmyra township, where he has since resided. Mr. Tucker was married in Otsego county in the fall of 1874, to Miss Mary M. Windsor, a resident of that county, and they have one child, Hervey, who was born September 13, 1875. Mr. Tucker is a democrat, is a school director in the township, and a member of the Episcopal church.

WILLIAM A. KINTNER, farmer, Palmyra, was born in Wyoming county, Pennsylvania, on the 7th of January, 1843, and is the son of William and Susanna (Heller) Kintner. His father was a farmer, and in 1850 removed to Lee county and purchased the farm on which his son now resides, and there his death took place, in 1857. Mr. Kintner received a common school education, but the death of his father occurring when he was yet a lad, threw the care and responsibility of conducting the farm upon his shoulders, and he proved himself fully equal to the emergency. He was married first in January 1868, to Miss Lizzie Stuart, a resident of Nelson township, who died shortly after her marriage. On March 19, 1872, he was again married, to Miss Fanny Clark, a daughter of George and Ann M. (Tuck) Clark. Mr. Kintner has one child by his first marriage, James E., aged thirteen years. By the second marriage there are two children: Georgie, aged eight, and Nellie, aged six years. In political sentiment Mr. Kintner is a republican.

WALTER L. ROGERS, farmer, Palmyra, is a native of Upper Canada, where he was born in 1815. He is the son of Gilbert and Nancy (Lockwood) Rogers. His father followed the occupation of a farmer, but died when the subject of this sketch was but two years old. After spending his youth and receiving his education in Canada Mr. Rogers removed to Monroe county, New York, and after residing there for three years came west and located in Palmyra township, in 1839, and a few years later purchased the farm on which he now resides. He was married in 1844, to Miss Hannah Fellows, the daughter of Stephen and Rachel (McGaffey) Fellows. Mr. Fellows was a native of Strafford county, New Hampshire, where he was born November 18, 1786. He came to Palmyra township in 1834, and kept a tavern for several years

where the residence of Mrs. R. C. Peck now stands. He was first married to Miss Peggy McGaffey, in 1808, who died in 1823, and he then married the sister of his first wife, Miss Rachel McGaffey, who is still living and is a resident of Iowa. Mr. Fellows was the father of fifteen children, ten of whom are still living. Mr. Fellows' death occurred in 1840. The family of Mr. Rogers consists of six children, the eldest of whom, Lewis G., was born November 29, 1846. He is a farmer and resides in Palmyra. Eliza M., born June 27, 1848, is the wife of Thomas H. Johnson and resides in Colorado; Alice A., born February 27, 1853, is married to Howard Johnson, a resident of Palmyra; Mary E., born December 16, 1854, married to James P. Wilson, of Woosung, Ogle county; Anna, born July 14, 1856, and Flora A., born December 11, 1858, reside at home. Mr. Rogers is a thorough-going republican. He has been supervisor of his town and held various other local offices, and attends the Methodist Episcopal church.

M. D. HUBBARD, farmer, Palmyra, was born in Palmyra township, November 18, 1837, and is the son of Oliver A. and Eliza A. (Martin) Hubbard, both of whom were natives of New Hampshire. They removed to Illinois in 1836, and located in Palmyra township, where O. A. Hubbard died a few years later. Mrs. Hubbard is still living and is the wife of W. W. Tilton, Esq., of Palmyra. M. D. Hubbard was the third child born in the town. He received his education at the neighboring schools, and when old enough engaged in farming. On May 10, 1861, he enlisted in Co. B, 13th Ill. Vols., and after serving some two years was honorably discharged on account of disability. After coming home he resumed farming, and in 1867 purchased the farm upon which he now resides. Mr. Hubbard was married February 17, 1864, to Miss Blanche Coe, a resident of Palmyra, and they have four children. Winona, the eldest, is sixteen years old; Henry A., thirteen; Bert, eight; and Ollie, four years. In his political views Mr. Hubbard is a supporter of the principles and policy of the democratic party.

CHARLES F. FURLEY, farmer, Prairieville, was born in Maryland, February 14, 1852, and is the son of James and Mary J. (Black) Furley, both of whom are still living and have been residents of Maryland for many years, but are expecting soon to take up their abode in Palmyra township. His father has been principally engaged in farming and stock dealing during his business career. Mr. Furley received his early education in his native state, and while still a boy learned the trade of chairmaking and general blacksmithing. For a number of years after serving his time he worked at his trade in various places both in the east and west, and some seven or eight years ago he located at Prairieville, in Palmyra township, where he has since resided.



Besides carrying on a blacksmith shop Mr. Furley is engaged in farming, buys and sells horses, and conducts a general store. Principally through the exertions of Mr. Furley a post-office was established at Prairieville, in June 1878, and he was appointed postmaster, which office he still holds. He was married in Whitesides county, Illinois, April 21, 1873, to Miss Sarah H. Harvey, a niece of W. W. Bethea, Esq., well known throughout Lee county as one of the oldest settlers. One child has resulted from the marriage, Guy L. Furley, born November 19, 1874. Mr. Furley is an active and stirring member of the republican party and is a young man of much ability and enterprise.

THEODORE WILSON, farmer, Palmyra, is a native of Blair county, Pennsylvania, where he was born on May 8, 1847. He is the son of Franklin and Susannah (Bridenbaugh) Wilson, who moved to Lee county in 1856, and located in Dixon township, but moved about three years later to Palmyra township, where his father died in 1870. Mr. Wilson was brought up and acquired his education in Lee county, and when old enough assisted his father in carrying on the farm, and after the death of the latter he continued farming on his own account. He was married on August 1, 1871, to Miss Cassie M. Lovell, a native of the State of New York, and they have one child, Angier W., who was born January 23, 1880. Mr. Wilson is an earnest and active democrat, and his ability and devotion to principle command the respect of his fellow citizens without regard to party. He is a member of the Presbyterian church.

MARTIN WILLIAM BRAUER, farmer, Palmyra, was born in Germany, in March 1815, and was the son of Jacob and Katrina (Schween) Brauer. He was educated in Germany, and while a lad shipped upon a merchant vessel as a sailor and followed the sea for about nine years. In 1840 he emigrated to America, coming directly to Lee county, and after working for his brother-in-law for the space of a year he engaged in farming for himself, having owned and resided on the same property for over forty years. Mr. Brauer was married April 16, 1848, to Miss Helena Harms, in Germany, whither he had gone for that purpose. They have two children living, the eldest being Anton, who is farming in Whitesides county, Illinois, and Frank was living at the old homestead. Mr. Brauer is a republican in political sentiment, and a member of the Lutheran church.

WILLIAM MCGAFFEY, farmer, Palmyra, is a native of Sandwich, New Hampshire, where he was born June 24, 1828. The first of the family to settle in America was a native of Ireland, who participated in the siege of Londonderry, and was a firm supporter of the Protestant cause. He afterward came to this country and settled near Dover, New Hampshire. He left two sons, one of whom was the great-



Geo. H. Page.



grandfather of Mr. McGaffey. His grandfather Samuel was married in 1783 to Miss Lydia Sanborn, and they had a family of seven children, one of whom, Mrs. Rachel Fellows, widow of Stephen N. Fellows, one of the early settlers of Lee county, is still living in Iowa at the ripe age of eighty-four years. The parents of Mr. Gaffey were Eliphalet and Aphie (Chase) McGaffey, both of whom lived and died in the State of New Hampshire. The early years of Mr. McGaffey were spent upon a farm, and in the fall of 1854 he came to the State of Ohio, where he taught school during the winter months. In the spring of 1855 he paid his first visit to Lee county, but soon returned to the east. In February, 1863, he again came west and purchased a farm in Palmyra township, on which he has since resided. He was married May 31, 1862, at Sandwich, to Miss Margaretta F. Davis, a daughter of Bradford C. and Margaretta (Farrell) Davis. They have three children: William D., born August 24, 1863; Samuel A., born December 10, 1866, and Anson, born September 21, 1875.

SIMEON T. MARTIN, farmer, Palmyra, was born in Sandwich, New Hampshire, on May 6, 1813. His parents were Jacob and Mary (Tyler) Martin. His early youth was spent in assisting his father on the farm. When about eighteen years of age he removed to Massachusetts, where he remained for several years engaged in various vocations. In June 1836, having come west, he located in Bureau county, Illinois, purchasing a claim and designing to settle there permanently, but after having been there for more than a year his claim was jumped, and he removed to Lee county and purchased a farm in Palmyra township, and which still forms a portion of his present property, which now consists of more than three hundred acres of valuable and fertile land. Mr. Martin was married in 1842, to Miss Catherine Montgomery, a resident of Palmyra township. They have been sadly afflicted, having had three children born to them, all of whom they have lost by death. Mr. Martin is a brother of James T., and also of the late Jacob Martin, and the brothers were pioneers in the settlement of the township.

HARVEY E. JOHNSON, farmer, Palmyra, was born in Bainbridge, Chenango county, New York, on February 11, 1819. His parents were Seth and Mary (Hough) Johnson, both of whom were natives of Connecticut. Until he was twenty-six years of age Mr. Johnson resided in Chenango county, having acquired his education there, and having assisted his father in carrying on the farm. In 1845, however, he came west, and purchased a farm in Palmyra township, which he still owns, and on which he resides. He was married December 31, 1848, to Miss Mary J. Wheat, a daughter of Josiah Wheat, one of the earliest settlers of what is now China township. They have four children living, the eldest being De Forest J., who was born April 13, 1850. He married



Miss Emma Bovey on December 24, 1872, and resides in Palmyra township. Florence R., born October 8, 1851, married to Jacob Baker, December 25, 1873, and resides in Ogle county; Franklin F., born December 19, 1855, and married to Miss Ida Rand, December 1, 1876; he is a resident of Palmyra township. Addie A., born December 25, 1866, and resides with her parents. Mr. Johnson's political affiliations are with the republican party, and he is a member of the Baptist church.

CHARLES LAWTON, farmer, Palmyra, is a native of Lincolnshire, England, and was born December 9, 1813. His parents were Edward and Mary (Roe) Lawton. Mr. Lawton lived in his native land until his twenty-third year, when he came to America and settled in Wyoming county, Pennsylvania, where he farmed for seventeen years. In the spring of 1853 he came to Illinois and located near Elgin, but a year later he removed to Palmyra township, where he has since resided. Mr. Lawton was first married in England, in 1835, to Miss Sarah Tuck, who died in Palmyra about 1857. Four children survive from this marriage, only one of whom, Mrs. A. A. Beede, is a resident of Lee county. On August 22, 1858, Mr. Lawton was again married, to Mrs. Ann M. (Tuck) Clark, and they have four children living: Carrie L., born in 1859, is the wife of William F. Swigart, and resides in Dixon township; Charles H., born April 20, 1861; John W., born December 18, 1862, and Fred A., born August 29, 1865, reside with their parents. Mr. Lawton is a republican, and a member of the Methodist Episcopal church.

JAMES P. GOODRICH, farmer, Palmyra, was born in the State of Vermont, on October 14, 1849, and is the son of Samuel and Charlotte (Perry) Goodrich. His father is a farmer and is now a resident of the State of New York. Mr. Goodrich received his early education in Vermont, and when seventeen years of age came to Illinois and lived for two years in the vicinity of Grand Detour, after which he purchased the farm in Palmyra township on which he now resides. He is largely engaged in the dairy business, in which line he has met with much success. Mr. Goodrich was married, May 2, 1872, to Miss C. M. Williams, daughter of George Williams, Esq., an old resident of Palmyra. They have only one child, Eddie, aged eight years. Mr. Goodrich is a stalwart republican and an attendant of the Methodist Episcopal church.

CHARLES A. GUYOT, farmer, Palmyra, was born in August 1820, in the island of Guadaloupe, West Indies, and is the son of John F. and Augustine (Lions) Guyot. His grandfather was an officer in the French army sent to this country during the revolutionary struggle to assist the colonies, and served under the Count De Rochambeau. At the end of the war the regiment to which he belonged was sent to

garrison the island of Gaudaloupe, and soon after he married there and engaged in planting. Upon the emancipation of the slaves in the West India islands the family removed to the United States. Mr. Guyot landed in New Orleans, but after a few months' residence, having become imbued with the gold fever, he determined to go to California, which he accordingly did in the spring of 1849, and remained there until 1852, when he returned to New York. Soon after he came to Lee county and located in Palmyra. In 1856 he returned to Guadalupe, but sickness in his family compelled his departure in 1861, since which time he has resided on his farm in Palmyra township. Mr. Guyot was married February 20, 1854, to Miss Sarah Ann Graham, a daughter of Capt. Hugh Graham. Their children are Mary B., born in February 1859; Charles L., born in May 1860; Ermine O., born in July 1863; Hugh G., born in October 1865, and George R. E., born in November 1869. Mr. Guyot is a member of the republican party.

S. R. RUTT, farmer, Palmyra, is the son of John W. and Barbara (Rutt) Rutt, and was born in Dauphin county, Pennsylvania, January 1, 1845. His parents came west and settled in Lee county in 1864, and are now residing upon a farm in the county of Whitesides. Mr. Rutt was brought up and educated in Dauphin county, and came with his parents and located in Palmyra township, where he is now engaged in farming. He was married October 18, 1869, to Miss Catharine Andrews, a resident of Whitesides county. They have five children: Elam, aged eleven; Edwin, aged nine; Solomon, aged seven; Maggie, aged five; and Archie, aged two years. In his political views Mr. Rutt is a republican.

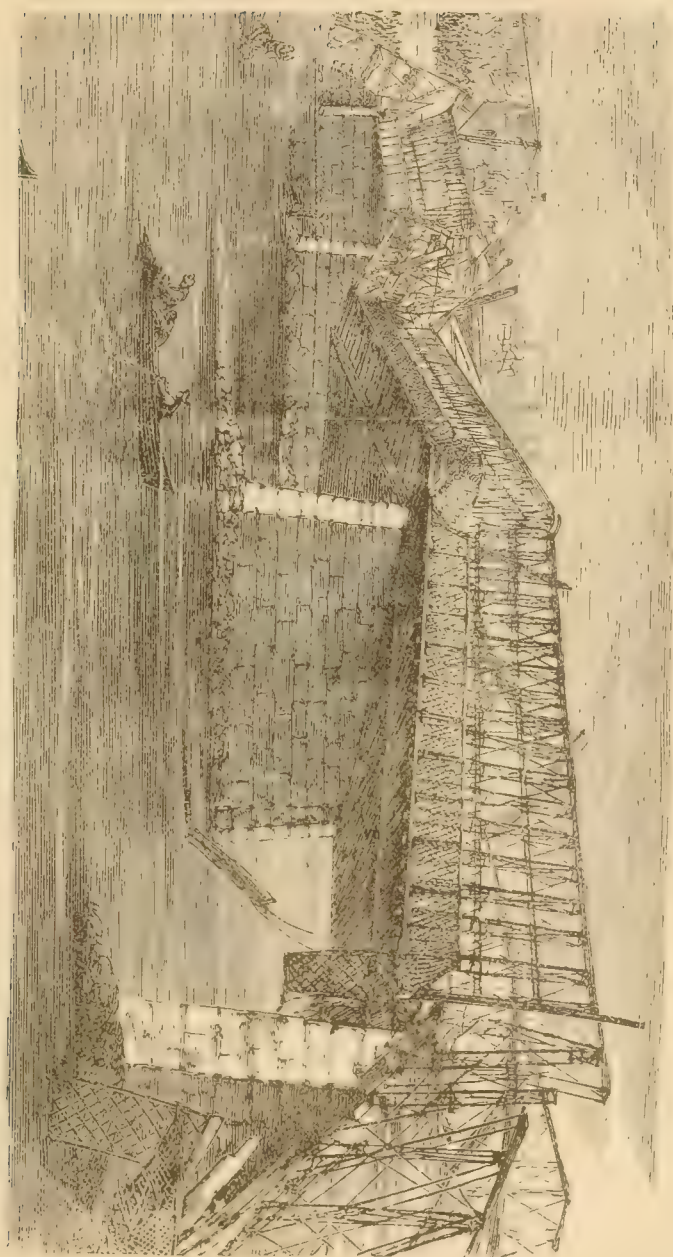
BENJAMIN STAUFFER, carpenter, Prairieville, was born in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, in 1819. His parents were John and Barbara (Eby) Stauffer. His father was a miller and also carried on a farm. He died in Pennsylvania on December 2, 1871. Mr. Stauffer obtained a common school education in his native town, and while a boy commenced working in his father's mill, and a few years later engaged in the milling business for himself, which he carried on until 1852, in which year he came west and settled in Whitesides county, only a short distance from the boundary line of Lee county, and engaged in farming, which he continued until 1875, when he removed to Prairieville and for some time followed the trade of carpenter, but of late years has been principally working at wagon-making. Mr. Stauffer was married February 29, 1839, to Miss Catherine Bookwalter, a resident of Lancaster county, Pennsylvania. They have nine children living: Esther, born July 18, 1840, is the wife of B. F. Rohrer and resides in Whitesides county; John, born November 10, 1842. He enlisted in

1862, in Co. D, 75th Ill. Vols. and served until the end of the war. He is a farmer and lives in Kansas. Abraham L., born June 7, 1845, is a farmer and resides in Nebraska; Henry, born July 12, 1847, resides in Palmyra township; Barbara A., born January 11, 1852, is married to Eli R. Ebersole and lives in Whitesides county; Emma C., born March 27, 1854, is the wife of Henry Ebersole, and also resides in Whitesides county; Benjamin F., born January 27, 1857, resides in Nebraska; Eliza, born August 11, 1860, and Amos, born March 12, 1863, are now residing with their parents. Mr. Stauffer is a republican and has been a justice of the peace for the town of Palmyra since 1877. He is a member of the Mennonite church.

HERMANN S. FISCHER, farmer, Palmyra, was born in Hamburg, Germany, on the 21st of July, 1845, and was the son of Carl and Bertha (Schroeder) Fischer. His father is a lawyer by profession, and is still a resident of Hamburg, where his mother died in 1845. Mr. Fischer was educated in Germany, having been a student at the University of Bonn-on-the-Rhine, and also that of Halle in Prussia. A few months after leaving the university he came to America and located at once in Palmyra township, where he has since resided with the exception of a few months' absence in Europe. He was married on September 10, 1878, to Miss Kate Thummel, daughter of the late C. B. Thummel, of Palmyra township. Mr. Fischer is a young man of excellent education and fine attainments, and is universally esteemed and respected.

ELLWOOD HUGHES, farmer, Palmyra, is a native of Columbia county, Pennsylvania, where he was born on the 4th of November, 1818. His parents were Benjamin and Mary S. (Stokes) Hughes. His father for many years followed the trade of a shoemaker, but engaged in farming in Columbia county in 1830, and died there in May 1860, at the age of seventy. Mr. Hughes received a common school education, and at the age of seventeen engaged in teaching, which occupation he followed for several winters, assisting upon the farm during the summer months. He then engaged in farming on his own account, in Columbia county, where he continued until 1869, when he removed to Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. He remained there until February 1871, when he came to Lee county and purchased the farm where he now resides. He was married at Hughesville, Lycoming county, Pennsylvania, on the 16th of January, 1840, to Miss Elizabeth Hill. Seven children resulted from this marriage, five of whom are still living, as follows: Mary C., born January 20, 1841, and married to James Hill, Esq., who is a resident of Wilkesbarre, Pennsylvania; Benjamin F., born April 6, 1844, now practicing law in Philadelphia; Charles H., born April 13, 1846, and a member of the firm of Hughes & Mellick, at Dixon; Ellwood C.,

DIXON BRIDGE DISASTER.





born August 25, 1855, is a graduate of Carthage College and also of the Theological Seminary of Springfield, Ohio, and is now practicing law at Storm Lake, Iowa; Edward A., born March 26, 1857, and is a resident of Palmyra. The eldest son, John M. Hughes, who was born in 1842, was a captain in the 210th Penn. Vols., and was fatally wounded on the 31st of March, 1865, at Gravelly Run, Virginia, and died May 6, 1865. Mr. Hughes held the positions of deputy marshal and justice of the peace in Columbia county, Pennsylvania, and since his removal to Palmyra has served two terms as supervisor and is now town clerk. He is also secretary and treasurer of the Farmers' Mutual Fire Insurance Company of Palmyra. Mr. Hughes is an ardent republican and a member of the Lutheran church.

HENRY DECKER, farmer, Palmyra, was born in New Jersey, in 1835, and was the son of Elijah and Christina (Kintner) Decker. Both his parents are still living, in Wyoming county, Pennsylvania. They removed to that section in 1837, and there Mr. Decker was raised and educated. In August, 1862, he enlisted in the 143d Penn. reg., and served for one year and a half, and was then transferred to the signal corps, where he remained until the close of the war. After leaving the service Mr. Decker removed to Illinois, and located in Palmyra township, where he has since resided. He was married September 26, 1867, to Miss Imogene Bunnell, of Palmyra, and they have four children: Charles E., aged thirteen; Eddie, aged ten; Nellie, aged seven, and Bessie, aged four years. In political sentiment Mr. Decker is a thorough republican and attends the Methodist Episcopal church.

MRS. DIANA WARN, Palmyra, was born in the State of New York, on the 24th of September, 1835. She was the daughter of Alanson B. and Mary (Benjamin) Campbell. She was brought up and educated in her native state, and when nineteen years of age came to Lee county with her parents and lived for some time in Dixon township, afterward removing into the city, where they remained for about five years. On the 15th of July, 1860, she was married to Israel P. Warn, a resident of Palmyra township, where she has since resided. Mr. Warn died on the 9th of October, 1871, leaving a widow and four children to mourn his loss. The latter are all daughters, the eldest being Elizabeth, aged twenty; Ella M., aged eighteen; Lena B., aged thirteen, and Gerty S., aged ten years, all of whom reside with their mother.

JOHN H. McWETHY, farmer, Palmyra, was born in Wyoming county, New York, on March 2, 1836, and was the son of Henry and Olive (Hale) McWethy. His father was a farmer and a resident of the State of New York until his death, which occurred about twenty years since. Mr. McWethy after leaving school assisted his father on the

farm, and when twenty-five years of age came west and located upon a farm in the township of South Dixon. After remaining there three years he removed to Palmyra township and purchased the farm on which he now resides. He was married in Livingston county, New York, in December 1860, to Miss Harriet E. Sheldon, a resident of that county, and they have three children living, the eldest of whom is Charles E., aged nineteen; George P., aged seventeen, and Willie C., aged nine years. Politically Mr. McWethy is a republican, and a member of the Presbyterian church.

DAVID A. HOLLY, deceased, for many years engaged in farming in Lee county, was born in Paradise township, York county, Pennsylvania, in 1804. His parents were Jesse and Anna (Sherer) Holly. Mr. Holly removed, when a young man, to Ohio and engaged in farming there until 1835, at which time he removed to Franklin Grove, in Lee county, where he remained for ten years. He then came to Palmyra and purchased 720 acres of land in that township, of Smith Gilbraith, a considerable portion of which he retained and continued to reside upon until his death, in June 1875. He was married in Knox county, Ohio, January 1, 1830, to Miss Eva Hoke, who survives him. There are also seven children living, the eldest of whom is William D. F. Holly, born in Belleville, Richland county, Ohio, September 1, 1834, and now a resident of Iowa; Amos H. Holly, born in Lee county, April 9, 1836, now living in California; Cornelia A. Holly, born in Lee county on the 12th of February 1840, and married to Frank Biddle, also residing in Iowa; David C. Holly, born in Lee county, January 1, 1843, who intends to remove to Iowa within a short time; George W. Holly, born in April 1845, and James F. Holly, born in June 1851, have also resided in Iowa several years; Emily Holly, born in Lee county in August 1849, and married to Orville Fort, lives in Iowa.

EBEN H. JOHNSON, farmer, Palmyra, one of the oldest settlers of the township, was born in Chenango county, New York, July 3, 1810, and was the son of Seth and Mary (Hough) Johnson. His father was engaged in farming and died in Chenango county. Mr. Johnson resided in his native county until he was twenty-eight years of age, but in the fall of 1838, having just been married, he started for Illinois, conveying his wife and household goods in wagons and occupying five weeks in the journey. He located in Palmyra township, buying a squatter's claim for \$1,000 in addition to the government price of \$1 per acre. He soon after purchased another claim, paying \$10 per acre for it. He has been a continuous resident of the township from the time of his arrival. Mr. Johnson was married August 13, 1838, to Miss Sarah Johnson, a resident of Broome county, New York, and the

result of this union has been seven children, five of whom are still living, as follows: Thomas H., born in Lee county May 23, 1839, now residing in Colorado and a member of the legislature of that state; Jane A., born in Lee county December 5, 1844, residing with her parents; Ralph E., born January 22, 1846, residing in Palmyra; William H., born August 27, 1851, residing in Palmyra; Marcus M., born August 15, 1855, also residing in Palmyra; Mary J., born March 20, 1841, married William Swigart, of Palmyra, and died June 3, 1875; Theodore, born May 27, 1848, was murdered in Nebraska, in August 1870. Mr. Johnson has always been an active and earnest republican since the formation of that party; has held the office of supervisor and several other local positions; and he and his wife, who has been for nearly half a century his faithful companion and friend, are enjoying in a serene old age the esteem and affection of their many neighbors and friends. Both Mr. and Mrs. Johnson are members of the Methodist Episcopal church.

CHARLES A. MARTIN, farmer, Palmyra, was born in Sandwich, New Hampshire, August 11, 1830, and was the son of William and Elizabeth (Hill) Martin. His father was a farmer and removed to Palmyra township in 1836 and engaged in farming upon the land which his son now occupies, where he died in 1844. Mr. Martin was brought up and educated in Palmyra township, and when he grew to manhood he engaged in farming, which he still continues. He was married in October 1852, to Miss Anna Tilton, daughter of Lorenzo and Ruth (Brown) Tilton, and they have six children living: William M., aged twenty-eight, residing in Nebraska; Edward E., aged twenty-six, also living in Nebraska; George C., aged twenty-four; Fannie R., aged twenty-one; Adelaide, aged seventeen; and Winifred, aged eight, all of whom reside at home. Mr. Martin is a republican in political sentiment and attends the Congregational church.

AMOS GOODWIN, farmer, Palmyra, was born in Oswego county, New York, August 29, 1827, and was the son of Benjamin C. and Rosanna (Shoemaker) Goodwin. His parents removed to Bradford county, Pennsylvania, when he was about four years of age, and followed the occupation of a farmer until the fall of 1852, at which time the family moved to Lee county, Illinois, and purchased a farm in the vicinity of Dixon, but resided in the town for a number of years. In 1873 Mr. Goodwin removed to Grand Detour and remained there about four years, after which he purchased a farm in Palmyra township, upon which he still resides. Mr. Goodwin was first married in the fall of 1861, to Miss Susan G. Dixon, a granddaughter of Father Dixon. She died September 15, 1878, leaving two children: James P. Goodwin, born February 18, 1863, and Isaac B. Goodwin, born September

13, 1865. He was again married in November 1879, to Mrs. Mary C. Huston, of Dixon, and they have one child, Mary, aged one year. Mr. Goodwin is a republican and a member of the Methodist Episcopal church.

JACOB MARTIN, deceased, Palmyra, was born in Sandwich, New Hampshire, December 29, 1806. His parents were Jacob and Mary (Tyler) Martin. He was brought up and educated and carried on a farm near Sandwich until 1836, when he moved to Lee county and settled on the farm in Palmyra township which he occupied at the time of his death, which occurred quite suddenly on Monday, August 29, 1881, in his seventy-fifth year. Mr. Martin was one of the earliest settlers of Palmyra, and his death makes still another gap in the fast thinning ranks of those brave and hardy pioneers who have made this fertile and beautiful section to "blossom like the rose," but who are rapidly passing away, and all of whom will soon, in the course of nature, be numbered with the dead, leaving behind them, however, many affectionate remembrances and fragrant memories. He was first married April 26, 1844, to Miss Margaret Curtis. As the result of this union there are three children living: Helen, aged twenty-nine, and Howard, aged twenty-seven, residing at the old homestead, and Josephine, aged twenty-eight, who is married to Thomas Morgan, and now resides in Missouri. The second marriage of Mr. Martin occurred May 5, 1856, when he was united to Miss Belle Drynan, who survives him, and by whom he had six children: Lillian, aged twenty-four; Emretta, aged twenty-two; Lizzie, aged eighteen; Franklin R., aged sixteen; Charles L., aged eleven, and Tyler E., aged six; all of whom reside at home.

MATTHIAS SCHICK, farmer, Palmyra, was born in Bavaria, Germany, on November 9, 1813, and was the son of John and Salma (Prout) Schick. He was educated in Germany, where he also learned the blacksmith's trade. When he was eighteen years of age he came to America and worked at his trade for several years in Berks county, Pennsylvania. From there he went to Philadelphia, where he remained until 1842, when he moved to Palmyra township and settled on the farm which he at present occupies. Mr. Schick was married at Philadelphia on July 10, to Miss Elizabeth Obrist, who died April 18, 1875. Seven children were the result of this union, of whom five survive: Matthias A., aged forty-one; Charles P., aged thirty, and George W., aged twenty-seven, all of whom reside in Whitesides county, Illinois; Anna E., aged thirty-nine, married to J. J. Barger, and a resident of Palmyra township; William H., aged 24, and resides in Chicago. Emanuel, born in Lee county, October 26, 1845, enlisted in the 34th reg. Ill. Vols. on February 28, 1864, and died at Vining Station, Georgia, August 7, 1864, from disease contracted in the service.



Theodore L. was born in Lee county, May 20, 1849. He graduated from the law department of Ann Arbor University in the class of 1871, after which he moved to Brownsville, Nebraska, and engaged in the practice of his profession. In the fall of 1880 he was elected a member of the legislature of his state, and died of fever on August 9, 1881, after a lingering illness. He was a young man of much promise, and had just started on a career which gave every indication of being prosperous and honorable. On August 20, 1877, Mr. Schick was united in marriage to Mrs. Rachel Hotchkiss. In political sentiment Mr. Schick is a thorough republican, and is a member of the Evangelical Lutheran church.

JOHN L. LORD, manufacturer and farmer, Palmyra, was born at Hopkinton, New Hampshire, June 10, and is the son of John and Achseh (Cary) Lord. His father was a blacksmith, and removed to Lee county in 1838, where he died February 7, 1874. Mr. Lord came to the State of Illinois with his parents, and received his education at the schools of Dixon and vicinity. His father at first settled in Dixon in 1838, and followed his trade there, but three years later he removed to Palmyra and engaged in the manufacture of wagons and carriages. After leaving school Mr. Lord learned the blacksmith's trade and worked for his father until 1850, at which time he purchased the property, and has since carried on the business with much success. He has also been engaged in farming for many years, commencing with seven acres of land, which he has now increased to about 250. Mr. Lord was married June 17, 1851, to Miss Mary L. Warriner, a daughter of Moses M. and Oriel (Smith) Warriner, who also settled in Lee county in 1838. They have six surviving children, the eldest being Augustus W., born March 3, 1852, and now residing in Iowa; Paul G., born December 31, 1853; John P., born April 17, 1860; Mary E., born December 18, 1863; Fredrick, born February 12, 1869; Grace, born September 26, 1872, all of whom reside at home. In his political views Mr. Lord is strongly republican, and has twice been elected to the office of supervisor.

CHARLES A. BECKER, deceased, Palmyra, was born in Prussia in 1810. He was educated in that country and also learned the watch-making trade, but when twenty years of age came to America to avoid serving in the Prussian army. After working at his trade in various cities for a number of years he finally located at Dixon in 1839, where he remained for several years. Having purchased a farm in Palmyra township he gave up business and engaged in farming, which he continued until his death in 1859. Mr. Becker was married at Reading, Pennsylvania, on the 2d of December 1833, to Miss Mary Kessler, who still survives him. Twelve children resulted from the marriage, eight

of whom are still living. Mary B., born August 28, 1834, is the wife of James L. McGinnis, of Palmyra; Sarah, born May 7, 1839, is married to William Bryner, and resides in Pennsylvania; Julia, born May 10, is married to C. A. Kaufman, and resides in Nebraska; Cecilia, born October 10, 1844, is married to Patrick Hall, and also resides in Nebraska; Francis, born November 19, 1846; Fanny, born April 4, 1851; Paulina, born November 1, 1853, and Lizzie, born August 21, 1856, reside at the old homestead at Palmyra. Charles, who is the eldest son, and who was born September 20, 1837, enlisted in 1861 in the 13th Ill. Vols., and was mortally wounded at Vicksburg on the 28th of December 1862, and died January 8, 1863.

WILLIAM MYERS, farmer, Palmyra, was born in Ohio, September 9, 1809, and is the son of John and Nancy (Hopkins) Myers. When he was eight years of age his father removed to Philadelphia and remained there about nine years, after which they located near Cincinnati, and lived there for three years. They then came to Illinois, and settled near Pekin, Tazewell county, in 1830, and in 1836 came to Lee county and engaged in farming in Palmyra township. At the time of the Black Hawk war Mr. Myers enlisted as a volunteer under Col. Strain, of Marshall county, and served until the close of the war. With this exception Mr. Myers has been continuously engaged in farming ever since he grew to manhood. Mr. Myers was married in 1826, to Miss Phebe Hull, daughter of Capt. Hull, of Buffalo Grove, who died October 25, 1873. Eight children resulted from this union, three sons and five daughters. Two sons and two daughters are residents of Iowa, two more daughters live in Nebraska, and the remaining daughter resides at Buffalo Grove, Ogle county, Illinois. The third son, Andrew Jackson Myers, now lives upon the old homestead. He is a native of Palmyra township, having been born there March 11, 1842, and acquired his education at the neighboring schools. When arrived at maturity he engaged in farming, and has continued to follow that occupation up to the present time. He was married December 25, 1865, to Miss Julia Kintner, daughter of the late William Kintner, of Palmyra, and they have three children living: Minnie, aged fourteen; Phebe, aged eleven, and Hattie, aged five years. Mr. Myers' political proclivities are with the democratic party.

EDWIN B. CHASE, farmer, Palmyra, was born in Columbia county, New York, November 26, 1810, and is the son of Benjamin and Phebe (Barnard) Chase. His father was a farmer and a native of Massachusetts, and died in the fall of 1871. When Mr. Chase was seven years of age his parents removed to western New York, where his father purchased a farm, and here Mr. Chase was brought up and acquired his education. When grown to manhood he engaged in

farming, and followed this vocation until 1856, when he removed to Palmyra township, Lee county, where he purchased a farm, and with the exception of some three or four years has since continued to reside. Mr. Chase was married in Wayne county, New York, in 1833, to Miss Elizabeth Rushmore, a native of Westchester county, New York. They have five children living, the eldest of whom, Reuben B., was born in 1836, and has resided in California since 1860; Adeline S., born in 1839, was married in 1864, to H. C. Peek, now sheriff of Ogle county; William D., born in 1845, resides in Palmyra and is by profession a teacher; Edwin B., jr., born in 1855, is a resident of Seward, Nebraska; John R., born in 1859, resides with his parents. The second son of Mr. Chase, Arthur W., born in 1842, enlisted in August, 1862, in the 92d Ill. Vols., and during his term of service contracted a lung complaint, which finally terminated in his death June 5, 1879. Mr. Chase has been an active member of the republican party from the time of its organization.

GEORGE L. KLOSTERMANN, farmer, Palmyra, is a native of Germany, where he was born March 29, 1845. He is the son of Ernest H. and Alma Klostermann, both of whom are still living in Palmyra. They came to America when Mr. Klostermann was but a few months old, and coming directly to Lee county they located near Prairieville, and have ever since resided in that vicinity. For the past fourteen years Mr. Klostermann has been engaged in farming on his own account, and now owns a fine property near the line of Whitesides county. He was married March 12, 1869, to Miss Rebecca C. Lamken, a resident of Palmyra, and they have four children living: Ernest H., aged eleven; Julia F., aged nine; Eddie G., aged four, and Herbert, aged nearly two years. Mr. Klostermann is a republican, and a member of the Lutheran church.

GEORGE RICKERT, farmer, Palmyra, was born in Dutchess county, New York, on July 20, 1822. He is the son of John and Elizabeth Plattner Rickert. Both of his parents were born, lived and died in the State of New York. Mr. Rickert in his early youth removed to Delaware county, New York, and when old enough engaged in farming, which he continued until 1852, when he went to Ulster county, New York, and followed steamboating for about a year, after which he returned to Delaware county. In 1855 he came west, and settled in Palmyra township, where he resided for eight years, with the exception of a few months spent in Colorado. In 1863 he removed to Whitesides county, but in 1871 returned to Lee county, and has since resided on his farm in the town of Palmyra. Mr. Rickert was married in the State of New York on January 1, 1844, to Miss Phebe Bennett, a resident of Greene county, that state, and they have two children: Emma, born in

1851, and the wife of F. F. Klostermann, of Palmyra township, and Mathias, born in 1853, and now a resident of Iowa. In his political views Mr. Rickert is in full accord with the republican party, and he and his family are members of the Lutheran church.

JOHN F. STAGER, farmer, Palmyra, was born in the State of Pennsylvania, on July 21, 1832, and is the son of John and Sarah (Fensler) Stager. His father is a farmer, and still lives in Pennsylvania, and follows that occupation. His mother died about a year since. Mr. Stager was nineteen years of age when he left his native state, and having learned the trade of a carpenter he came to Stephenson county, Illinois, and for the next five years worked at his trade most of the time in that county. About 1856 he came to Dixon, and about a year later settled in Palmyra, and since that time has built most of the first-class buildings erected in the township. For the past seventeen years he has also been engaged in farming, and for the past few years has followed that pursuit exclusively. He was married on December 27, 1859, to Miss Harriet A. Seavey, the daughter of Jesse and Sarah J. (Norris) Seavey. Mr. Stager has three children: Lillian G., born February 5, 1862; John G., born September 16, 1868, and Lloyd, born March 28, 1880. Politically Mr. Stager is a member of the republican party.

JOHN T. LAWRENCE, farmer, Palmyra, is a native of the island of Jamaica, West Indies, where he was born September 25, 1819, his parents being John T. and Julia (Ricketts) Lawrence. The first of the family to settle in America was Sir Henry Lawrence, who was president of Cromwell's council. After the death of the latter and the restoration of the Stuarts he came to this country and settled on Long Island. Some years later he removed to Jamaica and engaged in planting, but died soon after. Mr. Lawrence's father in his early life was an officer in the English navy, but on the death of his elder brother he succeeded to the estates in the West Indies. Upon the abolition of slavery in the British colonies he removed to the United States and died in the city of New York in 1847, leaving five children, three of whom are still living: James R. Lawrence, of New York city; Mrs. General Ricketts, of Washington, D.C., and the subject of our sketch. The latter was educated at Columbia College grammar school, and also passed one year at West Point military academy. After leaving school he engaged in civil engineering for a short time, but in 1839 he came west and located upon the same farm where he now resides and where he has lived continuously for more than forty years. He was married in 1845, to Miss Elizabeth Graham, a daughter of Capt. Hugh Graham, a very early settler. This union has resulted in six children, all of whom are living: Julia, the eldest, is the wife of Harry Eldred and resides at Beardstown, Illinois; John T., jr., Elizabeth,



Lilias, Mary and Fanny are all residing with their parents. Mr. Lawrence is a democrat and a member of the Episcopal church.

REV. CHRISTIAN B. THUMMEL, D.D. (deceased), Palmyra, was born in Germany in 1802, and after attending preliminary schools he entered the University of Halle in Prussia, in 1820, afterward graduating from the University of Tubingen in Wurtemberg. He was licensed to preach the gospel in the spring of 1824, and ordained in 1826, soon after which he came to America. For about a year he was employed as a missionary, and in 1827 he was chosen professor of languages in Hartwick Seminary, which position he occupied until 1838, when he accepted a professorship in the Lutheran seminary at Lexington, South Carolina. In 1845 he removed to Prairieville, Illinois, where he resided until his death, which occurred May 24, 1881. For fifteen years before his death he held the position of secretary and treasurer of the Farmers' Mutual Fire Insurance Company of Palmyra, and was universally esteemed and respected by all with whom he came in contact. Mr. Thummel was married May 17, 1837, in New York, to Miss Cathrine Luttin, who is still a resident of Palmyra. They had five children: Anson E., residing in Palmyra; Charles, residing in Kansas; George, practicing law in Nebraska; Warren, also a lawyer in Iowa; and Cathrine, married to H. S. Fischer and living in Palmyra.

ANSON E. THUMMEL, eldest son of the above, was born in Lexington, South Carolina, September 22, 1841, but removed with his parents when very young to Prairieville, Lee county, where he was brought up and educated. In August, 1861, he enlisted in the 34th Ill. Vols., and served with them for more than four years. He returned home in 1865 and soon after went to Iowa, where he engaged in farming, but in about three years he returned to Palmyra township, where he has since been pursuing the same vocation. He was married December 25, 1868, to Miss Helen C. Powers, a daughter of Hon. Abijah Powers, of Palmyra. They have had six children, four of whom survive, the eldest being Laura, aged twelve years; then Bertha, aged ten; Blanche, aged eight, and Lloyd, aged two years. Mr. Thummel is a republican and a member of the Lutheran church.

ALFRED A. BEED, farmer, Palmyra, was born in Carroll county, New Hampshire, in July 1834, and is the son of Noah and Harriet (Fellows) Beede. His father was a native of New Hampshire, and in his youth learned the trade of a shoemaker. He moved to Lee county in 1836 and settled in Palmyra township, and combined the occupations of farming and shoemaking until his death in February 1854. He married Harriet, daughter of Stephen N. Fellows, in Carroll county, New Hampshire, in 1827. She is still living and resides with her son

in Palmyra. The latter was only two years of age at the time of his parents' removal to the west, and received his education in the neighboring schools, and when old enough engaged in farming, which pursuit he still follows. Mr. Beede was married in October 1870, to Mrs. Elizabeth (Lawton) Diblebeck, a resident of Palmyra, and they have a family of six children: Bertie, aged fourteen; Hattie, aged ten; Edward A., aged eight; Frank A., aged six; Charles, aged four, and Mary, aged two years. Mr. Beede is, and always has been, an earnest supporter of the republican party and its policy.

FLETCHER HUTTON, deceased, Palmyra, was born August 10, 1820, in Columbia county, Pennsylvania. His parents were William and Elizabeth (Bowman) Hutton. His father was a farmer, and moved to Illinois in 1838, and died in Whitesides county. Mr. Hutton acquired a common school education in the east, and after coming to Illinois commenced operations for himself by cutting wood and breaking prairie, and as his small savings accumulated he invested them in land. He finally settled upon a farm in Carroll county, Illinois, where he resided for about twenty years. He then moved to Lee county and bought a farm in Palmyra township, where he resided until his death on May 20, 1879. Mr. Hutton was married in 1866, to Mrs. Sarah J. (Dryan) Hutton, the widow of his younger brother Maurice Hutton, who was born in Pennsylvania in 1831, and who enlisted in the 24th Iowa Vols. in 1862; was taken prisoner at the battle of Cedar Creek in October 1863; was confined at Andersonville and other rebel prisons for nearly two years, and finally died, in March 1865, from exposure and starvation. He left two children: Ernest L., born in 1859, and Bert M., born in 1854. Fletcher Hutton left the following children: Alice A., aged fourteen; William D., aged twelve; Earl F., aged ten; Leon E., aged eight; Walter C., aged six; and Lulu M., aged three years. Mrs. Hutton still resides in Palmyra, and manages her large farm besides looking after the physical and moral well-being of her children.

DAVID G. BOOK, farmer, Palmyra, was born in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, in March 1832, and is the son of John and Anna (Geist) Book. His mother died in the spring of the present year, but his father is still living and is a resident of Pennsylvania. He was brought up and educated in his native county, and when twenty-two years of age he came west and settled near Sterling, in Whitesides county, where he remained until about 1870, when he purchased his present farm, on which he has since resided. Mr. Book was married October 27, 1856, to Miss Mary A. Weaver, a resident of Whitesides county. They have nine children living, the eldest of whom is Aaron, born August 7, 1859; Leander, born May 13, 1861; Ann E., born December 6, 1862; Frank-

lin, born March 4, 1864; Henry, born April 26, 1867; Mary A., born March 2, 1869; Edward, born November 15, 1873; Ida M., born August 17, 1875, and David G., born February 24, 1877. Mr. Book is a republican in political views.

ANTON HARMS (deceased), Palmyra, born in Oldenburg, Germany, in 1800, was the son of Frank and Helena (Strengan) Harms. He came to America in 1848, and settled in Palmyra township, Lee county, on the same farm on which his family now resides. He was first married in Germany, to Miss Anna H. Wieting, who died in 1848. Three children survive this marriage, none of whom now reside in Lee county. He was again married in the fall of 1851, to Miss Anna Hector, who is still living. This union resulted in a family of three boys and two girls: George A., aged twenty-nine, resides with his mother on the old homestead; Anton W., aged twenty-seven, is married and lives in Palmyra township, and is a farmer; Theresa S., aged twenty-five, is married to Fred Jurgens, and is a resident of Sterling, Illinois; Augusta C., aged twenty-three, and Herman F., aged twenty-one, reside with their mother.

RALPH E. JOHNSON, farmer, Palmyra, was born in Palmyra township on January 22, 1847, and is the son of Eben H. and Sarah (Johnson) Johnson, of Palmyra. Mr. Johnson's whole life has been spent and his education received in his native town, and for a good many years he was engaged in farming, having a joint interest with his father and brothers, but about a year ago came into possession of the farm on which he now resides, and has since then farmed on his own account. Mr. Johnson was married March 10, 1875, to Miss Abbie Knox, and they have two children: Anna, born May 25, 1876, and Rena, born December 31, 1878. In his party affiliations Mr. Johnson has been a steadfast republican.

HENRY MILLER, farmer, Palmyra, was born in the Province of Oldenburg, Germany, November 13, 1822, and is the son of Pope E. and Theda (Remmers) Miller. His father during his youth was engaged in milling, but after his marriage became a farmer, and in 1837 came to America and settled in Cass county, Illinois, where he died a few months later, leaving a widow and five sons, Sibald, Emke D., Anthony E., Becker and Henry, all of whom survive, with the exception of Mrs. Miller, who returned to Germany in 1859, and died there in 1859, and Emke D., who died of consumption in the fall of 1848. The eldest son, Sibald, returned to Germany, and is still living, and Anthony and Becker are residents of Whitesides county, Illinois. In 1838, soon after the death of the husband and father, the family removed to Palmyra township, Lee county, and settled on the property which is now solely owned and occupied by Henry Miller, and which he has farmed for



*E. H. Johnson*





forty-three years. Mr. Miller was married on September 29, 1850, to Miss Fredrika A. Klostermann, of Palmyra, and there are nine children living, of whom the eldest is Charles E., aged thirty, who resides at Detroit, Michigan, and is an attorney-at-law; Mary E., aged twenty-eight, wife of Warren F. Powers, and residing in Whitesides county; Rena H., aged twenty-six, and wife of Mathias Rikert, now of Palmyra, but soon to remove to Iowa; Lucy, aged twenty-four, married to Henry Lemken, and residing in Grundy county, Iowa; Nellie G., aged seventeen, is engaged in teaching school in Iowa; Alma, aged twenty-one; Frank S., aged nineteen; Kate, aged fifteen, and Minnie, aged thirteen, reside with their parents. Mr. Miller is a republican, and is a member of the Lutheran church.

BECKER MILLER, brother of the above, and now residing near the boundary line of Lee and Whitesides counties, was born in Oldenburg, Germany, on April 6, 1820, and his history up to the time of their residence in Lee county is comprised in that of his brother Henry. He sold his interest in the farm in Palmyra township to the latter in 1854, and removed just across the line of Lee county into Whitesides, where he has since resided, largely engaged in farming. He was married on September 19, 1852, to Miss Elizabeth M. Thummel, a daughter of Rev. C. B. Thummel, of Palmyra. They have six children: Emma C., born August 12, 1855, and married in December, 1876, to Henry Montillon, a resident of Cedar Rapids, Iowa; Adeline E., born January 26, 1857; Ella M., born May 18, 1860; George W., born April 2, 1862; Frederick L., born September 15, 1864, and Jessie L., born September 14, 1872, all of whom reside with their parents.

ABRAM R. RUTT, farmer, Palmyra, was born in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, August 17, 1853, and is the son of Samuel W. and Maggie (Rutt) Rutt, and the grandson of Samuel Rutt, an old settler of Lancaster county. His father was born there in 1822, and after receiving his education engaged in farming in his native county, and continued there until 185—, when he removed to Franklin county, in the same state. He removed to Lee county and located in Palmyra township early in 1865. His property in Pennsylvania was valuable and well improved, but he had endured many losses during the civil war from the incursions of both the Union and confederate armies, and at the time of the burning of Chambersburg by the rebels he resided within two miles of that town and suffered greatly from their depredations. He accordingly sold his property considerably below its value and moved west. In 1879 he returned to Sterling, Whitesides county, and is now engaged in the ice business there in company with two of his sons, Levi and Henry. Abram R. came west with his parents in 1865, and when old enough engaged in farming in Palmyra township, where

he still resides. He was married on the 16th of December 1874, to Miss Maria Landis, a resident of Whitesides county, and they have two children: Clarence, born September 23, 1876, and Anna, born March 6, 1878. Mr. Rutt is, and always has been, a thorough republican.

RICHARD C. PECK (deceased), Palmyra, was born in Bethany, Genesee county, New York, in 1821, and was the son of Richard and Catharine H. (Comstock) Peck. His father was a farmer, whose whole life was passed in the State of New York. Mr. Peck grew up and was educated in his native county, and when grown to manhood became engaged in farming there, which he continued until 1856, at which time he came to Illinois, and settled in Whitesides county, until 1863, when he purchased a farm in Palmyra, on which he resided until his death, January 12, 1877, and where his widow and children are still living. Mr. Peck was married in December 1852, to Miss Sylvia A. Gillett, at Byron, Genesee county, New York. Five children resulted from this union, the eldest being Charles D., born March 25, 1854; Mary Hope, born October 21, 1861; Kate L., born March 10, 1864; William J., born February 3, 1866, and Frank H., born January 31, 1873. Mr. Peck was universally esteemed and respected, and left to his family a legacy more precious than gold or silver, that of an unsullied reputation and untarnished name.

WINTHROP SEAVEY (deceased), Palmyra, was born in Rye, New Hampshire, January 26, 1802, and was the son of Joshua and Betsey (Webster) Seavey. In his early manhood Mr. Seavey was engaged in the mercantile business in his native state, and remained in that line until 1839, when he removed to Illinois, and settled in Palmyra township and became engaged in farming, which pursuit he followed until his death, which took place in the month of November 1864. He was married January 10, 1863, to Miss Elizabeth Curtis, of Washington county, New York, who died June 25, 1853. There are two children surviving this union, William W. and Gideon W., the latter of whom is engaged in business at Fort Wayne, Indiana. William W. Seavey, the eldest son, was born in Palmyra township October 18, 1840, and has ever since resided in his native town, and has for many years been engaged in farming. He was married November 17, 1870, to Miss Augusta O. Moses, of Portsmouth, New Hampshire, and they have but one child living, Albion M., born January 27, 1872. Mr. Seavey is a member of the republican party.

T. A. BUTLER, farmer, Palmyra, is a native of Huntington, Long Island, where he was born March 2, 1814, and is the son of John and Nancy (Abbott) Butler. His father was a stone-mason in his youth, but soon became a farmer and followed that calling until his death, which took place in Delaware county, New York, in 1836. Mr. But-

ler acquired his education in Delaware county, but in 1839 removed to Illinois, and soon after located on his present farm in Palmyra township, where he has ever since resided. He was married February 14, 1850, to Miss Roxana Stewart, a native of Illinois, and they have had seven children, five of whom are still living: Lilian H., born June 7, 1854, is married to Anton Brauer, and resides in Whitesides county, Illinois; Otho J., born November 20, 1857; Perdita A., born July 10, 1860; Katie, born November 30, 1867, and Nora M., born May 9, 1872. In his political views Mr. Butler is entirely independent, belonging to neither of the existing parties.

EDWARD A. HUGHES, farmer, Palmyra, was born in Columbia county, Pennsylvania, on the 26th of March 1857, and is the son of Elwood and Elizabeth (Hill) Hughes, who are now residents of Palmyra township. When thirteen years of age Mr. Hughes came to Lee county with his parents, and for six years was engaged in attending school and assisting his father in farming. In 1876 he commenced to farm on his own account, and still follows that vocation. He was married on the 12th of February 1878, to Miss Vernia Champlin, then residing in Mount Pleasant township, Whitesides county, Illinois. Mr. Hughes is a republican in political sentiment, and has a well-deserved reputation for ability and enterprise, of which so young a man may justly be proud.

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### NACHUSA TOWNSHIP.

“ 'Tis well to speak of things of the past  
While memory is clear to serve us.”

The present town of Nachusa was organized in 1871. The territory embraced within its limits once constituted parts of the original towns of Dixon and China.

On November 10, 1870, Col. A. P. Dysart presented to the board of supervisors a petition praying that the board create a new township, called Nachusa, comprising the W.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of T. 21, R. 10, and the W.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of T. 22, R. 10. At the same time a remonstrance was presented by Robert L. Irwin against the creation of said new township. Whereupon the petition and remonstrance were laid on the table until the next session of the board. On Tuesday, February 7, 1871, on motion of supervisor Viele, the petition was ordered to be taken from the table, and the board having heard said petition and the remonstrance thereto read, and being sufficiently advised touching the same, it was, on motion, ordered that the prayer of the petition be granted and that a new town called Nachusa be created, comprising the territory before described. The name was conferred upon the township in honor of



Father Dixon, to whom, in early times, the Indians applied the name of "Nachusa," meaning in their language white hair.

The southern portion of the town is flat, and until a system of drainage is inaugurated it will be inferior to the surrounding country. In the central part the land is gently rolling and the soil excellent. Northward the township extends to Rock river, which describes all sorts of serpentine crooks and bends along the northern border of the county. Along its shores in this locality great masses of rock, vine-covered and green with the moss of a century's growth, pile themselves one upon the other to the height of many feet, and here and there jut far out into the water. Great grim bluffs, whose summits are crowned by lofty pines that sigh in the breath of May and roar in the blast of winter, tower skyward like huge billows on the sea. From one of these bluffs one can see far up and down the river, whose silvery sheen is visible for many miles, now gliding behind hills and now leaping into the sunshine and rippling along at your feet. Here, tradition tells us, the Indian maiden once bathed and prepared her simple toilet and saw mirrored in the crystal waters her dusky cheeks and raven hair. Here, listening to the murmuring waters, the sighing pines and mournful cooing of the turtle-dove, she waited the coming of her swarthy lover. Surely this is a charming spot, — wild, weird and picturesque.

#### EARLY SETTLEMENTS.

The first permanent settlers in what is now Nachusa township were Messrs. Bennet and Brown, who came from New England and located on Sec. 14. Next came the Eldrige brothers, who entered claims on Sec. 19. About the same time Squire Chamberlain located on the same section; Mr. Hollingshead came soon after and also located on Sec. 19. In 1835 Hon. Joseph Crawford came and lived one year with Mr. Hollingshead and then located in Dixon township. In the summer of that year Mrs. Hollingshead came from Louisville, Kentucky, and joined her husband in his frontier home. Having been raised amid the luxuries of civilization, one may easily imagine her feelings on being suddenly ushered into the wild life of the pioneer. She had never done any washing or performed any household labor, but Mr. Crawford states that she entered cheerfully upon her duties and seemed quite contented in her rude home. Solomon Shelhamer was also one of the early settlers of Nachusa. He first located in the town of Dixon in 1837, and after remaining a short time removed to what is now Nachusa.

In 1836 John Chamberlain bought Mr. Hollingshead's farm. In the same year Mr. Fisk came from Pennsylvania, bringing with him a stock of goods, with which he began business in the house formerly

owned by Mr. Hollingshead. This building is still standing, a relic of early times. At that time all goods and supplies were drawn by ox teams from Hennepin, on the Illinois river. Barclay Smith came in 1836, and bought what was known as the lower ferry farm, on Sec. 14. Mr. Crandall, Jerry Murphy and Josiah Moores also came at an early day.

The first settler in the southern part of the township was Mr. Jones, who located on Sec. 20. Dr. Charles Gardner located on the same section. Rev. Erastus Dewolf came from Rhode Island as an Episcopalian minister. He bought Jones' claim, which he extended to such proportions that after being surveyed it was found to comprise several sections. He evidently desired to become "monarch of all he surveyed." Alvah Hale came at an early day, and entered a claim on Sec. 33. In 1839 John Leake came from England, and located on Sec. 28. In 1841 his brother Daniel came, bringing both families.

Mr. Crawford states that the early settlers did not turn as much of their attention to religious matters as people of the present day, but that they worshiped God without a creed. Their religion did not consist in rearing costly churches with lofty spires, but in doing right by their fellow men, in imitating the "meek and lowly Nazarene" in word and in deed. Mr. Crawford states that during the years of 1839-40 malarial and bilious fevers were quite prevalent among the inhabitants of this portion of the county. This was supposed to result from the poisonous vapors arising from the newly-broken prairies.

The modes of traveling in early days were quite different from those of the present. Then if a man wished to go to Chicago he paid his fare on the stage and took up his march behind that vehicle, carrying a rail on his shoulder to aid in extricating it from gulleys and mud-holes, with which the prairies then abounded.

Previous to the establishment of a cemetery the settlers buried their dead on their farms. About the first public cemetery in the township was on the farm of John Hetler on Sec. 22. This, however, was soon abandoned and the present one established on land given for the purpose by Josiah Moores. This one is located on the S.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 23. The remains of Mr. Moores were the first laid to rest in this "quiet city of the dead."

Mr. Brierton states that he once packed 4,500 pounds of pork, out of which he realized nothing; what was not consumed by the family was fed to the dogs. The price of meat was too low to pay for transporting it to market. It might be well to mention here the difficulties incident to transporting produce to market. An incident related by Mr. Brierton may give the reader an idea of hardships encountered by the early pioneers. In July, 1845, he and a neighbor named Brandon

started for Chicago, each with a two-horse wagon loaded with wheat and oats. After traveling two days they arrived at Johnston's Grove, thirty-five miles distant from their starting-point. In traveling that distance they "doubled teams" nineteen times in order to get across mud-holes. On the second night a terrible storm of rain set in, which was so severe they knew it would be impossible for them to reach their destination, and they accordingly abandoned the trip, sold their loads and started homeward across the prairie, which was almost a sheet of water, sometimes reaching their wagon-boxes. At one place they saw parties with eleven yoke of oxen hitched to one wagon, and even then were unable to extricate it. In making these trips to Chicago it was no unfrequent occurrence for the settlers (they always went in parties) to form a bridge across a stream with their wagons, in order to get their grain across. This was accomplished by unloading them and placing one after the other until the stream was spanned. This done, they would take out all the end boards and carry the produce across to the other side; after which the wagons were drawn out, reloaded, and the party again resumed its laborious journey only to repeat the operation at the next stream.

John Leake, sr., was also among the early settlers, having come in a very early day. For many years his only conveyance was an ox team and a lumber wagon. With this outfit he drew his produce to market and also took his pleasure rides in it. In the fall of 1847 his entire family were prostrated with the chills and fever.

Prominent among the pioneer settlers of Nachusa was Mr. Solomon Shelhamer, who died in 1879.

The following is an extract from the history of Nachusa, as written for the Dixon "Sun" by Col. A. P. Dysart.

In 1842 there was a settlement started on what is now called the Franklin Grove road. Ludlum Ayers, Levi Green, Thomas Hopkins, William Parker, William Richardson, James Goddard and Don Cooper took up claims and erected rude huts, the palace of the emigrant of that day.

They mostly belonged to that class of people who are best at home among the society that follows closely upon the footprints of the red man. Most of them disposed of their claims in a few years, immigrating farther west to bear further hardships in opening and developing some newer country, glorying in the name of the hardy pioneer.

In the year 1845 quite a number located lands near the present village of Nachusa and some at the west end of Franklin Grove. At the latter place Joseph Emmert, from Maryland, bought the claim of Don Cooper.

Mr. Emmert, being a man of considerable means and energy, erected

in that and in the succeeding year a two-story dwelling and a large barn; the latter was said to have been the first erected in Lee county. In the year 1850 he erected quite a large flouring-mill on Franklin creek at a very heavy expense, it being the first one of the kind built in the northern portion, and said to be the first in the county. It stands yet as a monument to energy and enterprise. About the same year he erected what is known as the Dunkard church, he being a minister of the gospel of that persuasion. This building was occupied for several years as a school-house as well as a church. Since that time it has given place to a more stately edifice.

In the same year Col. A. P. Dysart entered lands adjacent to those he now occupies.

In the same year (1847) he purchased the claim of Thomas Hopkins and entered the lands, where he has resided ever since.

In the year 1846 John M. and Samuel Crawford located on lands where they now reside.

Like all surrounding towns, the facilities for opening up and improving the country was necessarily slow, and the outlet for its surplus cereals being so far to reach they were almost valueless. The dawn of the day of its prosperity had to await public improvements.

In the year 1854 the Chicago & Northwestern railway (formerly the Dixon Air-line) was completed, passing through nearly the center of the township north and south, and having located a depot at first named Taylor and since named Nachusa. At that time all the freighting for Grand Detour was done there.

What can be said of the early settlements of the greater part of the state can be said of Nachusa; a greater portion of the emigrants were from the eastern part of the states where timber was abundant. It was natural for them to select for their homes places as convenient to timber as possible, and very many of them had doubts at that time that they would ever live to see the day when this broad and almost treeless expanse, which lay off from the timber, would be dotted all over with the rural homes of the husbandmen. And the planted forests that loom up, turned in any direction, demonstrates it as a fact that it is easier to raise a forest than to remove one.

#### THE VILLAGE OF NACHUSA

Was laid out in the fall of 1853 on land owned by Col. Dysart and George Baugh. The following in regard to it was taken from the records: "I, Joseph Crawford, surveyor of Lee county, do hereby certify that the town of Nachusa is situated and laid out as follows, to-wit: upon the E.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of S.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  and upon the W.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of S.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 6, T. 21 N., and R. 10 E.



"The streets are sixty-six feet wide, and the alleys eighteen feet wide. The quarter-section line passes through the center of State street, north and south, and all the streets south of the railroad line are run parallel to the quarter-section line, and at right angles thereto; and the streets north of the railroad are laid out parallel to the railroad. For the size of lots and blocks reference may be had to the plat, where they are marked on the line in feet. At the southeast corner of block two, at the northeast corner of block thirteen, and at the southwest corner of the plat, are placed permanently in the ground good sufficient stones from which to make future surveys. The surveys done for A. P. Dysart and George Baugh. Done at Dixon, March 1, 1855.

"JOSEPH CRAWFORD, Lee County Surveyor."

This little village is quite a lively trading point. They receive from 150,000 to 300,000 bushels of grain yearly.

The first to embark in trade in the new-created town was Col. A. P. Dysart, who built a warehouse and began buying and shipping grain. In addition to his grain trade he also kept on hand a good supply of coal and lumber, for which he found a ready sale, and good buildings and other improvements began to spring up all over the country.

In 1855 or 1856 Mr. Dysart, in company with a man by the name of Cumminham, engaged in the mercantile trade. Having put up a suitable building for the purpose he kept what might be called a general store. In 1860 this firm was succeeded by John Dysart & Riley, who built the large elevator which is now in use in the present extensive grain trade carried on by John Dysart & Israel Slothower. The store they sold out to Mr. Wm. C. Dysart, who is now carrying on an extensive mercantile trade in the village and surrounding country.

The first postmaster here was A. P. Dysart, appointed by President Pierce. The office has, till the present, remained in the Dysart family, W. C. Dysart being the present incumbent.

The school-house was built in 1868, and was first occupied by John A. D. Barnes as teacher. The building is a neat little frame structure, and does credit to the place.

The first blacksmith shop opened in the village was in 1855 or 1856, by Mr. Farwell. The present proprietor is Mr. John S. Eicholtz, who is also engaged in the manufacture of wagons and carriages.

The first school-house in the township was built and given to the pioneers by Cyrus Chamberlain, Esq. This building was located on Sec. 19. Mr. C. Herrington was the first teacher. Prior to the building of this school-house schools were taught in private houses by a man named Sheldon, and it is said he was the first teacher in this part of the county.

Cyrus Chamberlain was the first justice of the peace. He was also county commissioner when Ogle and Lee counties were one. Mr. Chamberlain also built the first saw-mill in this part of the county.

The second school-house was built of stone, on Sec. 26, T. 22, R. 9. It is now used as a church by the United Brethren.

#### CHURCHES.

The German Baptist church (more familiarly known by the name of Dunkard) was organized in what is now Nachusa township, by Rev. Joseph Emmert, who built a house of worship on Sec. 5, T. 21, R. 10, as early as about 1850. This structure was superseded by a more stately edifice several years ago, in size 34 × 54, with basement, kitchen and sleeping-room above the audience-room. This same organization existed prior to Mr. Emmert's coming to Lee county, but was located just across the river in Ogle county. To them Mr. Emmert first preached, but for the convenience of himself, his many friends and members who were settled around him Lee county, organized as above stated, with the following members: himself and family, Christopher Lahman and wife, Jacob Riddlesberger and wife, Samuel Riddlesberger and wife, Oliver Edmonds and wife, Isaac Siets and wife, Andrew Dierdorf and wife, Benjamin Kesler and family, with a few others. With a will and determination this little band of disciples held together and kept the faith through the pioneer period, and like the star in the east, guided many good men from Pennsylvania and other eastern states who came later and joined this little company, whose members are now counted by scores, and to whose fair dealings and honest industry may be credited the prosperity of the community in which they live. Their present preacher is Rev. Levi Raffensberger, who has been prominently connected with the church for many years. Mr. Benjamin Kesler has been an elder for about twenty-eight years, and has been a pillar to the church ever since his residence in the county. In connection with this church is a beautiful cemetery, where now sleep a number of the early pioneers, the first of whom was Debbie Beaver. This burial-place is free to all, and all the surrounding country bury here.

Very early in the settlement of Nachusa township a Methodist minister by the name of Benjamin preached to the pioneer settlers in their cabin homes. Another minister, by the name of Reed, an Englishman by birth, who has since returned to England, preached to the early settlers near Mr. Brierton's in the little stone school-house, spoken of elsewhere. Religious services are still kept up by this denomination.

#### BIOGRAPHICAL.

JONATHAN DEPUY, farmer and stock raiser, Nachusa, is prominent among the early settlers of Nachusa township now living. He was

born of poor but honest parents, in Luzerne county, in the old hilly State of Pennsylvania, reared on a farm, and educated to hard toil and industry. July 5, 1838, he married Miss Sallie A., daughter of Phillip and Elizabeth (Moore) Klintob, also a native of Luzerne county, Pennsylvania. After his marriage Mr. Depuy began life himself with just what nature provided him with, a pair of strong hands and a determined will. His first work was to secure a team and wagon and a small amount of money. This obtained, in the spring of 1842 he started for Lee county, Illinois, where he arrived June 2, three dollars in debt to a friend in Chicago from whom he borrowed that amount. After his arrival here Mr. Depuy at once went to work, and when he could not succeed in getting \$1 a day he took 50 cents, and so persevered until he became independent. He now owns one of the most desirable homes in Nachusa township, besides 240 acres in Iowa. His wife died at her home, where she so long lived and where she reared her family, November 30, 1866. The issue of this union was eight children, six of whom are living: Alexander, Rosana, Maranda, Fidelia, Sarah J. and Mariam. The two deceased are Francis, aged two years, and Charles, who died in the winter of 1863, aged eighteen years. Mr. Depuy's second marriage was with Miss Tenia Bowman, who was born in Somerset county, Pennsylvania, May 9, 1828. Mr. Depuy was born October 2, 1816, and is the son of Jonathan and Rachel Winner Depuy, who were also natives of Pennsylvania.

JAMES A. HEATON, farmer and stock raiser, is a son of John and Sarah (Weed) Heaton, and a brother to the late Judge Heaton, of the appellate court. He was born in Oneida county, New York, August 17, 1822. His early labor was farming, but he served an apprenticeship to the cooper's trade. His education was quite liberal for his day. He attended the common schools, then spent parts of three years at Clinton Liberal Institute, where he studied all branches taught in that institution except the classics. He taught ten years in New York state. April 1, 1844, he started for the west. He landed first in Wisconsin, then made his way to Illinois. He arrived in Lee county in August of the same year, and engaged as a farm hand to James Campbell, then sheriff of Lee county. In winters he taught school. On April 18, 1847, he enlisted in Co. A, 16th reg. U. S. Inf., for the Mexican war, and served till its close. He then returned to Lee county. He was married June 1, 1851, to Anna M. Hetaler, daughter of Nathan and Katharine Hetler. She was born September 1, 1832. They have seven children living: William H., Katharine H., wife of B. F. Miller; Andrew J., Charles C., Jessie, and twins, Nellie and Georgina. Mr. Heaton has owned many different tracts of land, but

dates permanent settlement to his occupancy of his present home, Secs. 22 and 24, T. 22, R. 9. He has 208 acres in his farm.

ZACHARIA T. STOVER, farmer and stock raiser, Dixon, was born in Adams county, Pennsylvania, February 6, 1849, and was reared on a farm, with but a limited means of obtaining an education, as his mother died when he was but a small boy; yet, by a determined will, and application to study, he gained a fair business education. In 1870, in view of bettering his condition, he came to Lee county, Illinois, where he decided to make his future home; decidedly preferring the prairie State of Illinois to the hilly State of Pennsylvania. October 6, 1875, he married Miss Anna L. Seitz; she was born in Lee county, Illinois, December 16, 1854. They have two children: Charles T. and Mary F. Mrs. Stover's father, Isaac Seitz, was born in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, April 22, 1809. Early in life Mr. Seitz learned the trade of cooper, which he followed till he came to Illinois, in 1846. He then bought a farm in Sec. 2, T. 21, R. 10, and engaged in farming. September 8, 1850, he married Miss Frances, daughter of Charles Philip and Elizabeth (Moore) Klintob; she was born in Luzerne county, Pennsylvania, March 14, 1826, and came to Lee county in 1848 or 1849. By this marriage he reared four children, two of whom are living, Mrs. Anna L. Stover, and Jacob E., born May 24, 1862; by a former marriage he reared six children, three of whom are living: Mary A., wife of John W. Courtright, and Isaac and Abraham (twins). Mr. Seitz is still living on the old home farm with his daughter.

DOLLIVER JOHNSON, retired, Amboy. After a long life of useful labor, combined with a high order of mechanical genius and intelligence, Mr. Johnson retired to his farm in the southeast of Nachusa township, where himself and his excellent wife are now spending their declining years, surrounded with the blessings of a pleasant home. Mr. Johnson was born in Bradford, Orange county, Vermont, July 16, 1800. He was reared on the farm, but at the age of eighteen, being a natural mechanic, turned his attention to learning the trade of blacksmith. This he followed till the age of thirty-four, when, seeking a broader field of labor, he entered a foundry at Boston, where he bored and finished the first brass cannon ever produced in the United States. About this time came the demand for railroad engines, and he engaged in the manufacture of these great iron horses, which were then not only the wonder, but consternation, of the world. He subsequently became master mechanic for five different railroad companies, viz, the Erie, the Pittsburg, the Calais & Baron in the United States, and the St. Lawrence & Atlantic and Grand Trunk of Canada. In 1855 he came to Amboy, Lee county, Illinois, where he received the appointment by



the Illinois Central Railroad Company of foreman of their machine shops at Dunleith, where he remained till 1870, when he retired to the farm, which his noble wife had been superintending from the time of their advent into Illinois, thus bringing into practice those rare talents for which her family are characteristic. On March 20, 1827, Mr. Johnson was united in marriage to Miss Louisa Underwood. She died April 20, 1835, aged twenty-nine years and five months. Of this marriage are two children: Alonzo and James, both living in Springfield, Massachusetts. Mr. Johnson's next marriage was on October 17, 1837, with Miss Lucretia, daughter of Mr. Thomas and Anna (Eaton) Abbott. She was born in Concord, New Hampshire, March 6, 1812, and is a descendant of the historic Abbott family, whose ancestors (two brothers) came to America in the early Puritan days in the next ship following the immortal *Mayflower*.

WILLIAM W. DARKER, farmer and stock raiser, Amboy, is a native of Leicestershire, England, and came to Lee county, Illinois, in 1845. During his early youth he was engaged in a mixed business of farming, brewing, butchering, and attending school. Soon after he came to Lee county he entered land in Sec. 21, T. 21, R. 10, and at once began to make himself a home, which to an Englishman is of great importance. He very early entertained the idea that to make a home on the prairie it must be surrounded with a thick growth of a large variety of timber, hence his residence is now almost hid from view in the tall timber that surround it. On January 26, 1853, he married Miss Caroline Gould, a native of Ashtabula county, Ohio. She was born January 24, 1824, and died July 26, 1863, leaving one child, Elizabeth, born October 25, 1853, who is now cheering her father's home with the pleasant sunshine of her countenance. Though she was early in life deprived of the tender care and instructions of a mother, she has those very essential qualities which are so much required to make a pleasant home—industry, perseverance and good taste. Mr. Darker is engaged in stock raising as well as farming.

SAMUEL CRAWFORD, farmer and stock raiser, Nachusa, was born in Blair county, Pennsylvania, May 15, 1823. Like his father he was reared a farmer, and educated in the common schools of his boyhood days (that of the old subscription plan). February 10, 1848, he was united in marriage with Miss Mary A., daughter of Jacob and Nancy (Wilson) Burket, also a native of Blair county, Pennsylvania. She was born April 21, 1827. In April following his marriage Mr. Crawford started for Lee county, Illinois, by the way of the rivers Ohio, Mississippi and Illinois. On his arrival in this county he at once began improving his prairie home, which he had two years previously entered in Sec. 9, T. 21, R. 10, and has since transformed it from a state of

nature, inhabited by deer and wolves, into one of the finest farms in Nachusa township. It comprises 400 acres of excellent farming land. This has about all been earned by a close application to business, and is an evidence of what pluck and industry will accomplish. When he first had wheat to sell he hauled it by team to Chicago over the unbroken prairie, without roads or bridges, but he worked and waited for the railroad, and now it passes in sight of his home. Himself and his noble wife are now enjoying the fruits of their labor. They have five children living: William J., Wilson, Fannie M., Calvin B. and Lucinda A. Mr. and Mrs. Crawford are members of the Presbyterian church and hold their membership at Dixon.

WILLIAM H. FISCEL, farmer and stock raiser, Nachusa, was born in Adams county, Pennsylvania, May 14, 1842, and came to Illinois with his parents, David and Mary A. (Herbst) Fiscel, in 1848. They were natives of Pennsylvania, but of German ancestry. Soon after coming to Lee county they settled near Franklin Grove, but two years later bought land in Sec. 32, T. 22, R. 10, in what is now Nachusa township. They made the trip from their native state to Lee county with a team, being six weeks on the road. At the time they came the country was quite new and unimproved; grain had to be hauled to Chicago to find a market, and then sold for from 30 to 50 cents per bushel. Passengers were but poorly accommodated by the old stage coach, which is now replaced by the lightning express, and passes several times daily in sight of their home. Mr. Fiscel lived to see a great change in this county. He died in November 1865, leaving a wife and seven children to mourn the loss of a kind husband and father. William H., the subject of this sketch, coming as he did to Illinois when quite young, was deprived of the advantages of anything more than a limited education. Young as he was at the outbreak of the late rebellion, he became a member of Co. G, 75th Ill. Vol. Inf., and did about three years' service for his country. He was honorably discharged with his regiment at the close of the war. February 27, 1868, he married Miss Elizabeth, daughter of Mr. George Stambaugh. She was born in Pennsylvania, December 25, 1846. They have one child, Frank, born January 24, 1876. The very pleasing appearance of their home shows its proprietor's good taste.

JOHN P. BRUBAKER, farmer, Nachusa. The Brubaker family in this country descended from two brothers who came to America from Germany, in 1771, and settled in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, from whom sprang a numerous posterity. One of the two brothers, as above, was Christley Brubaker, from whom descended Jonathan Brubaker, who was born in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, and was the father of Jonas Brubaker, who was born in the same county, May 5, 1801. The latter

moved with his parents, when seven years of age, to Virginia, settling near Lynchburg, that state. Three years later the family removed to Preble county, Ohio, where Jonas still lives at the advanced age of eighty years. John P. Brubaker, the subject of this sketch, was born July 30, 1826, in Preble county, Ohio, and is the son of Jonas and Rebecca (Phillips) Brubaker. His mother was the daughter of Simon Phillips, of Tennessee, who lived near Blue Ridge, that state. When twenty-three years of age he left his father's house in Ohio, and coming to Illinois he purchased a farm on Secs. 5 and 6, T. 21, R. 10 E. of the 4th P. M., Lee county, where he still lives. On September 7, 1840, he was married to Miss Hannah Wright, daughter of William and Eva Wright, of Preble county, Ohio. Resulting from this union were four children: William E., now residing in Iowa; Marcus C. died December 11, 1875, in Cincinnati; and Laura A., now wife of Ruben W. Eicholtze, of Nachusa township. Mrs. Brubaker died October 15, 1865. On February 31, 1867, Mr. Brubaker was united in marriage to Miss Ann Sunday, daughter of Henry and Susan (Trostle) Sunday, of York county, Pennsylvania, her parents both dying when she was but a child. From the above marriage union resulted two children: Minnie May, born May 21, 1868, and Ozra J., October 5, 1873. Mr. Brubaker has served as commissioner of highways for a number of years, as school trustee for the last fifteen years, and as justice of the peace for the past ten years, and sustains the last two official relations at the present time. He gives special attention to fruit-growing, of which he has many choice varieties, his home being well shaded with thrifty fruit and forest trees. He has one brother living, Ephraim Brubaker, of Chicago, and one sister, Elizabeth, wife of Joseph Baker, Preble county, Ohio. Mrs. Brubaker has two brothers living: Solomon Sunday, of Frederick county, Maryland, and two sisters: Rebecca, wife of John Peters, of Dickinson county, Kansas, and Abigail, wife of Abraham King, of Lee county.

BENJAMIN KESLER, farmer, Nachusa, was born April 12, 1807, in Ash county, North Carolina, and is the son of Joseph Kesler, born in Pennsylvania, February 17, 1767, and removed to Ash county, North Carolina, about 1791. His grandfather, Unrich Kesler, emigrated from Switzerland when a lad, between 1740 and 1750. When the subject of our sketch was but a child he removed with his father to Montgomery county, Ohio, where the latter died September 1840. He remained on the farm until November 1836, when he removed to Darke county, where he continued the occupation of farming until 1850, when he removed to Illinois and settled in Sec. 6, T. 21, R. 10, Lee county, where he resided until the autumn of 1880, when he removed to his daughter's home in Nachusa township. On September 21, 1827, Mr. Kesler was



united in marriage to Miss Sally Burket, daughter of John and Mary Burket, of Miami county, Ohio. To them were born seven children: four now living, two dying in infancy, and Miss Anna at the age of twenty years. After a companionship of fifty-three years Mr. Kesler was bereaved of his wife and devoted mother of his children, she dying May 2, 1880. Mr. Kesler has been identified with the German Baptist church for about forty years, thirty of which time he has held the office of deacon.

MRS. MARY (KESLER) EMMERT, of Nachusa, was born April 1, 1831, in Montgomery county, Ohio, and is the daughter of Benjamin and Sally (Burket) Kesler, given above. At the age of nineteen she removed with her parents to Illinois. She was united in marriage March 11, 1852, to Henry Emmert, son of Rev. Joseph Emmert, of Lee county. After marriage they settled on a farm in Secs. 4 and 5, T. 21, R. 10. They have eight children: Sarah Catharine, Joseph (deceased), Anna Elizabeth, Alora Priscilla, George Rufus, Eva Jane, Carrie Hewet, Frank Winfred, and Jesse Theadore.

GEORGE WASHINGTON KESLER is the eldest son of Benjamin and Sally (Burket) Kesler, and was born in Montgomery county, Ohio, October 21, 1836. He removed with his parents to Lee county, Illinois, in June 1850. In October, 1862, he enlisted in the army and entered Co. C, 34th reg. Ill. Vols.; was wounded in the battle of Murfreesboro, being disabled from further service, and was honorably discharged. December 29, 1864, he was united in marriage to Miss Louisa M. Hunt, daughter of Otis and Louisa (Fluent) Hunt, of Steuben county, New York. She was born November 6, 1840, and removed with her parents to Lee county, Illinois, in 1861. After their marriage they settled on a farm in Bradford township, where they resided until March 1879, when they removed to Collyer, Trego county, Kansas, where they still reside. They have a family of four children: Otis B., Perlle, Jesse L. and Nettie F.

MRS. EVA (KESLER) LICHTY was born April 22, 1841, in Darke county, Ohio, and is the daughter of Benjamin and Sally (Burket) Kesler. She removed with her parents to Lee county, Illinois, in June 1850. In August, 1865, she was united in marriage to Daniel A. Lichty, who was born in Somerset, Pennsylvania, came to Illinois about 1863, and devoted some time to school teaching. After their marriage they settled on a farm in Lee county, where they resided until March 1873, when they removed to Brown county, Kansas, where they are now living. They have four children: Bernice M., Olive Mary, Mahlon, and Ida Anna.

RUFUS G. KESLER, son of Benjamin and Sally (Burket) Kesler, was born in Darke county, Ohio, August 3, 1845. In June, 1850, he



removed with his parents to Lee county, Illinois. After acquiring a fair common school education he spent a three-months term in a commercial college. In 1863 he enlisted in the service of his country and became a member of the 75th reg. Ill. Vols., remaining in the service until the close of the war. Besides other severe battles in which he took part he participated in the bloody battle of Perrysville, where most of his regiment fell. In the fall of 1870 he married Mrs. Frances Graves, of Chicago, daughter of Mr. George Robinson. He made Chicago his home until 1878, when he removed to Collyer, Trego county, Kansas, where he took a soldier's claim of 160 acres and a timber claim of the same amount, and is engaged in farming and stock raising.

JACOB HILL, farmer, Dixon, Lee county, Illinois. Jacob Hill, farmer and stock raiser, son of Jacob and Catherine Hill, was born in Luzerne county, Pennsylvania, December 24, 1821. In about the year 1837 he went to Livingston county, New York, where he resided for nearly twenty years. In 1858 he came to Lee county, where his father had settled two years previous. He had six brothers and two sisters, but is now the eldest living, three brothers and one sister having died. His father died about 1870, and his mother survived until 1879, when she too passed away. Mr. Hill has one brother in this county. In about 1842 he was married in New York, the issue of this marriage being two children, and he was afterward bereaved of wife and children. About one year after his removal to this county he was united in marriage to his present wife, Miss Balinda Marteeney, daughter of Jacob and Anna (Corke) Marteeney, of this county. They had by this union four children. Their eldest daughter married Daniel Linzey, of South Dixon. Mr. Hill, the subject of this sketch, resides upon the home farm, and is an enterprising and successful farmer and an esteemed citizen.

COL. ALEX. P. DYSART, farmer, Nachusa, was born February 3, 1826, in Huntingdon county, Pennsylvania, and is the son of James and Elizabeth Dysart, who were natives of Pennsylvania, but of Scotch and Irish ancestry. When a boy of eighteen or nineteen he located land in Lee county, embracing the present village of Nachusa, and in 1847 settled where he has since resided, and improved one of the finest farms in Lee county. His farm embraces 288 acres of prairie land on Sees. 6 and 7, T. 21 N., R. 10. In 1848 the colonel returned to Pennsylvania and was united in marriage to Miss Catharine Grazier, of Huntingdon county, that state, and daughter of Henry and Nancy Grazier, and returned to his farm in Lee county in May of the same spring. He was elected justice of the peace for two successive terms, also served on the board of supervisors for a number of years, as well



Respt James A. P. Gault



as commissioner of highways, town clerk, etc. In the fall of 1861 he entered the United States service, being commissioned captain September 13, 1861, and mustered in as captain of Co. C, of the 34th reg. Ill. Vols. After the battle of Shiloh, he was promoted major and received his commission April 18, 1862. On November 29 of the same year he was commissioned colonel, and took command of the 34th reg. At the expiration of the regiment's service he returned to Springfield, and was tendered the command of a new regiment by Gov. Bates, but which he declined, and returned home. In 1878 he was elected representative to the Illinois state legislature, and reëlected in 1880. He is of decided republican principles in politics. The colonel suffered the bereavement of his wife, who died December 11, 1878, leaving seven children, four sons and three daughters. The eldest son, James W. Dysart, M.D., is living in Laramie City, Wyoming; two sons, James H. and Alison A., and one daughter, Mrs. Miller, reside in Chicago; one daughter, Mrs. Jesse R. Whitney, resides south of Franklin Grove.

WILLIAM C. DYSART, merchant, Nachusa, was born in Huntingdon county, Pennsylvania, July 9, 1837. His early life was spent at farming on the old homestead. During this time, however, he received a liberal education at Mountain Seminary, Birmingham, Pennsylvania. In the spring of 1866 he moved to Lee county, and engaged in the grain business at Nachusa, in company with his brother, Capt. John Dysart, and erected the first grain elevator at that place. After engaging one year in this pursuit he returned to his native state and engaged in the wholesale grocery trade at Altoona, at which business he continued until in 1879, when he again came to Nachusa, and established himself in the general merchandise and lumber business, which he still pursues. For this business he first occupied a small frame building, which now forms a wing to his present commodious store, erected in 1878. On January 1, 1872, he was married to Sophia Barlow, daughter of Augustus Barlow, Esq., a prominent citizen of Lee county. They have had by this union one child, a daughter, Anna May, born in 1875. In 1869 Mr. Dysart was appointed postmaster at Nachusa, and has held the office continuously ever since, and is the present incumbent. Mr. Dysart, together with his estimable wife, enjoy the confidence and esteem of the entire community in which they live.

WILSON DYSART, farmer and stock raiser, Nachusa, was born November 27, 1829, in Huntingdon county, Pennsylvania, and is the son of Joseph and Mary A. (Davison) Dysart. He was reared on a farm, receiving a fair education, also a good practical education in the art of intelligent farming. January 18, 1853, he married Miss Frances M., daughter of Mr. Samuel P. and Susan (Rathbon) Wallace, who was



born in Huntingdon county, Pennsylvania, August 31, 1833. After his marriage Mr. Dysart engaged in farming on the old home with his father, till 1857. In the spring of that year he came to Lee county, Illinois, and commenced improving land previously entered by his father, and in the fall of the same year his family joined him here, and he at once settled permanently on Sec. 17, T. 21, R. 10, which he has since by industry and good taste transformed from a state of nature into one of the beautiful prairie homes of the south part of this town. Mr. Dysart is now (1881) actively engaged in stock raising as well as farming. This farm contains 440 acres of excellent land, highly improved. His family consists of nine children: Warren P., Joseph W., Anna M., Clarinda, Ernest S., Edith, Marian L., Edward E. and Frances E.

JOHN LEAKE was born in Leicestershire, England, November 27, 1807. He was the elder son of John and Miss (Snow) Leake. Educational advantages were meager, but he acquired learning sufficient to enable him to do business, and when about fifteen years of age was apprenticed to a butcher. After acquiring the trade he and his father bought a small farm and carried it on, together with the butchering business. After a time this business was disposed of and other enterprises undertaken, but business did not prove successful, and Mr. Leake determined to seek his fortune in America. In December, 1832, he was married to Mary A. Jarvis. To them, while they remained in England, were born three sons and one daughter, the latter dying when a child. In 1840 Mr. Leake bade adieu to his family and, without a tear, set sail for New York, where he arrived in the latter part of May. Immediately he pushed on to the frontier, up the Hudson to Albany via the Erie canal to Buffalo, via lakes to Chicago, thence by stage to Dixon's Ferry, Lee county, Illinois. He reached this place June 10, in company with William Moodey and Isaac Means, whose acquaintance he had formed en route from New York. Mr. Means proposed going farther, at least to Galena, but Mr. Leake said "Stay here and look about." He shortly bought a claim, for which he said he would not take a thousand dollars, the other men found employment, and so farther explorations ceased. And now commenced the struggle for a home and competency. Having little or no money, Mr. Leake worked at any employment within his reach, often for 25 cents or less per day, and taking for payment anything that could be made available toward securing the home or sustenance for the family. In 1841 a business trip took him to New Orleans. Here he lived "three days on three 10-cent pieces;" then came employment and success. Returning to Dixon, he was there in time to meet his family, who arrived in August of that year. Mr. Leake sold his coat to buy a cow; built a shanty, which was only partly covered with floor, and here, without table or chairs,

the family settled down in their own home. In the course of time there were born into the family two daughters, one of whom is still living. In 1843 the winter set in with such severity in the second week in November that the family were driven out of their shanty to a neighboring log house. But noble enterprises are sure to win. This family did not struggle in vain. In spite of frequent losses of hard earned personal property, in spite of many dangers and much malarial disease, they gained ground and soon began to add to the original claim till a farm of 287 acres they could call their own. Other farms were added, till at the time of Mr. Leake's death, he could number his acres at 670. In 1867 the desire of several years was put in practice. In May he crossed the Atlantic to visit his native land. Not long after arriving in England he was prostrated by sickness so severe that his friends had little hope that he would see home again, but his strong will prevailed. He arrived at home November 1, but remained an invalid till September 11, 1869, when he died. He was buried in Temperance Hill graveyard, beside his daughter, who had died in 1862. Thus he saw his three sons and one daughter grown and able to take up the work which he had laid down. To Mrs. Leake belongs a large share of credit for the success of the family. After her husband's death she lived with her children till January 19, 1868, when she too was numbered with the dead and laid beside her husband.

THOMAS LEAKE, farmer and stock raiser, Amboy, is the son of John and Mary (Jarvis) Leake, of Leicestershire, England, and was born at that place January 12, 1839, and came to this country with the rest of the family in the summer of 1841. Though he is not a native, he is yet one of the pioneers of Lee county. He was reared on the farm and in his youth was engaged in rural pursuits and attending the pioneer schools of the period. In 1858, having mastered all of the branches of learning available in the schools of the county, he entered Rock River Seminary, at Mount Morris, for the purpose of completing his education. In 1862 he began a theological course of training in the Garrett Biblical Institute, at Evanston, Illinois, which he completed in 1864. In the meantime he was engaged during vacations in teaching. On the completion of his course he joined the Rock River Conference and began his ministerial labors in the Big Rock Circuit. This station he filled for two years, at the end of which time, finding his health so impaired as to make him unable to continue the work, he returned home, and after a year of recuperation took charge of his farm. On February 20, 1872, he was married to Miss Martha S., daughter of Stephen T. Scoville, who was born in Oneida county, New York, March 29, 1838. Mr. Leake has a beautiful farm and nice home, much taste and refinement being displayed in their cultivation and care.

JOHN C. LEAKE, farmer and stock raiser, Amboy, son of John and Mary A. (Jarvis) Leake, was born in Leicestershire, England, December 7, 1836, and came to America with his mother and others of their family in 1841. His father preceded them here to prepare a home for them on their arrival. This he did by entering government land in the south part of Nachusa township. Thus John C. became one of the pioneer children of this county and is well acquainted with all the disadvantages of pioneer life, having hauled grain to Chicago with a team, railroads then being a convenience almost unheard of in this part of the country. September 21, 1863, he was married to Miss Mariette, daughter of Leonard W. and Sarah A. (Crawford) Hale. She was born in Ohio, January 6, 1838. They have one child living, Thomas W., and three deceased: Charles W. died July 2, 1877, aged twelve years; Jennie F., February 6, 1879, aged six years, and Grace M., March 3, 1879, aged nearly three years. Mr. Leake owns the old homestead, consisting of 380 acres, and is actively engaged in stock raising and farming.

HENRY WINGERT, retired farmer, Nachusa, is a son of Jacob and Elizabeth (Binkley) Wingert, and was born in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, February 23, 1804. His father was born in the same state, and his grandfather was born in Germany. Mr. Wingert was reared and educated a farmer. August 10, 1826, he married Miss Anna M. Bentz, a native of Franklin county, Pennsylvania. In 1833 he removed to Preble county, Ohio, and there engaged in farming till 1852, when he came to Illinois, and settled in Lee county, on Sec. 4, T. 21, R. 10. This was his last and permanent settlement, as he is now (1881) contentedly enjoying the comfortable home his industry and honest toil have provided. Mrs. Wingert died December 25, 1877, leaving her husband nine children living (six being deceased), viz: Elizabeth M., Louisa C., John W., Hannah, Walter J., Miriam, David, Harriett A., Leona V. Mr. Wingert began life for himself without means, but by good management he now owns, besides his home farm of 160 acres, 80 acres of good land in Iowa. He is one of those whole-souled men whose influence is always felt for good in the community where they live.

JOHN W. WINGERT, farmer and stock raiser, Nachusa, is a son of Henry and Anna M. (Bentz) Wingert, and was born in Franklin county, Pennsylvania, July 19, 1831, and with his parents removed to Preble county, Ohio, when a small boy. Here he grew to manhood, engaged in farming, and to a limited extent attending school. In 1852 he came with his parents to Lee county, Illinois, and settled in the prosperous town of Nachusa, and followed the business of farming. In August, 1862, he enlisted in the 75th Ill. Vol. Inf., followed the for-



tunes of war through the battles of Perrysville and Stone River, after which, on account of his health breaking down, he was transferred to the 12th Veteran Reserve Corps, and was finally discharged with that regiment in June 1865, broken down in health, from which he yet experiences much suffering. January 28, 1869, he was united in marriage with Miss Hannah M., daughter of Jacob and Nancy Hittle. She was born in Columbia county, Pennsylvania, October 15, 1837, and came to this county with her parents far back in its early history. They have five children: Willie B., Frederick A., Adelbert, and Bertha and Berton (twins). In November, 1877, he bought his present farm of 160 acres in Sec. 29, T. 22, R. 10, where he now lives engaged in farming.

JOSHUA WINGERT, farmer and stock raiser, Franklin Grove, is a son of John and Mary (Newcommer) Wingert, and was born in the State of Maryland, July 4, 1829. In 1832 his parents removed to Ohio. Here young Joshua remained with his parents, engaged in farming and attending school, till about the age of seventeen. At that time (1846), in company with an elder brother, he emigrated to Illinois, and settled in Lee county, and engaged in farming in connection with his brother. December 20, 1855, he married Miss Susan, daughter of Mr. Jacob and Mary Emmert. She is a native of Maryland, and was born May 4, 1836, and came to Lee county, Illinois, with her parents in an early day. After his marriage Mr. Wingert actively engaged in farming and stock raising for himself, which business he has ever since successfully followed, and by careful management and industry has accumulated a fine property. He has three sons living: Ralph W., a fine scholar, who is now giving much attention to the fine arts; Ira W. and Lee E., who are also giving much attention to education.

JOSEPH HECKMAN (deceased) was the son of Jacob and Sarah (Bushkirk) Heckman. He was born in Bedford county, Pennsylvania, April 11, 1813, and died June 19, 1881, after a life of patient labor and industry. He was united in marriage with Miss Elizabeth, daughter of James and Elizabeth (Mock) Rawlings, December 25, 1838. She was born July 5, 1814, and died May 23, 1879. They left a family of six children: James M., Mary E. (who is now faithfully discharging the duties of housekeeper for her brothers), Josiah S., Jacob C., John R. and Adison L. Mr. Heckman with his family came to Lee county, Illinois, in December 1863, and bought a farm of J. S. McNeel in Sec. 36, T. 22, R. 10, one of the most pleasant homes in this township.

DAVID N. STRATTON, farmer and stock raiser, Dixon, was born in Massachusetts, August 1, 1844. He is a son of Milo and Calista P. (Rice) Stratton. His early youth was spent on a farm, where he had and improved the advantages of the common schools. At the age of



seventeen years he entered the mercantile business in Lee, Massachusetts. This he followed till the age of twenty-two, when he came to Macoupin county, Illinois, where he remained two years as clerk in a store. He then came to Whitesides county, Illinois, where he remained till the fall of 1868, when he removed to his present home farm in Lee county, Illinois. He is permanently engaged in farming and stock raising, of which business he is now making a decided success. August 15, 1877, he was united in marriage to Miss Hester, daughter of Nathan and Judah Hill. She was born in Pennsylvania. They are the parents of two children: Jennie P. and Milo. Mr. Stratton's parents are still living in Massachusetts, his father at the advanced age of eighty-two years.

SAMUEL MILLER, farmer and stock raiser, was born in Franklin county, Pennsylvania, March 2, 1810. His father was killed when he (Samuel) was three years old. His early youth was spent farming and attending school till seventeen years of age, when he began teaching. He became a successful instructor both in the English and the German languages. In 1832 he was married to Miss Mary Laymon, a native Pennsylvania. By this union he had three children: Mary G., Jacob L., John W. About 1840 Mrs. Miller died. Mr. Miller was next married to Mary Maune, and by this marriage had seven children: Benjamin F., Abram C., Samuel W., Martha W., Lusetta, Charlotte A., Laura F. In June, 1865, Mr. Miller bought and occupied the old George Baugh farm of 300 acres. He has always exhibited a marked degree of industry and perseverance, the result of which is a fine farm with all the improvements that add value to any farm property.

JONAS B. EICHOLTZ, farmer and stock raiser, Nachusa, is a son of John F. and Anna (Boyer) Eicholtz, both natives of Pennsylvania and now residents of Nachusa. Jonas B. was born in Adams county, Pennsylvania, March 26, 1840, and like his father received a limited education and was raised to hard work on the farm. In the spring of 1861, with his parents, he settled in Lee county, Illinois, near Nachusa, where he engaged in tilling the soil. November 19, 1863, Mr. Eicholtz was married to Miss Elnora E., daughter of Jacob and Sarah (Dettro) Peters. She was born in Adams county, Pennsylvania, August 23, 1840. The issue of this marriage is one child, Osear R., born in Pennsylvania, March 26, 1866, while Mr. and Mrs. E. were visiting in that state. In 1875 Mr. Eicholtz purchased his present farm of 145 acres in Sec. 18, T. 21, R. 10, which he has improved but did not occupy as a home till March 1880. He is one of Lee's industrious and prosperous farmers. Mr. and Mrs. Eicholtz are connected with the Lutheran church, holding their membership in the St. James' church, South Dixon.

SAMUEL A. BENDER, farmer and stock raiser, Dixon, is a son of John and Margaret (Miller) Bender, and was born in Franklin county, Pennsylvania, June 5, 1843. He remained at home with his parents, where he gained a fair common school education, till the summer of 1860, when he started west, intending to make a home for himself on the celebrated prairie of Illinois. He stopped in Lee county and began working out by the month on a farm, but at the outbreak of the rebellion he shouldered the musket in defense of his country, and on August 12, 1862, as an enlisted member of Co. G, 75th Ill. Vol. Inf., started for the field of action. He met the enemy at Perryville and Stone River, and was with his regiment throughout the war, and was honorably discharged June 12, 1865, having been appointed sergeant (for meritorious conduct) in August 1864. After his return home Mr. Bender engaged in farming in Lee county. November 18, 1869, he married Miss Millie, daughter of Erastus and Ruth (Wilcox) Hart. She was born in Pennsylvania, July 18, 1851. They are the parents of three children living: John F., Bessie A. and Dora Mabel, and two deceased. In the spring of 1870 Mr. Bender bought his present home farm in Nachusa township, where he permanently located and engaged in farming. His father was born in Franklin county, Pennsylvania, where he made his home through life. He died August 25, 1881. The father, the grandfather of our sketch, was a native of Germany, and followed the occupation of farmer. He came to America early in life and settled in Pennsylvania.

JOHN ATKINSON, farming, Nachusa, is a son of John and Margaret (Todhunter) Atkinson, and was born in Cumberland county, England, August 30, 1847. In June, 1869, he left the land of his birth, parents and friends, and set sail for America in the steamship England, of the National line, in search of home for himself on the fertile prairies of Illinois, and landed in New York July 4, 1869. He at once came on to Dixon, Lee county, Illinois, and hired out by the month on a farm. This he followed two years, when he rented land and engaged in farming for himself. March 1, 1879, he married Miss Susanah, daughter of Mr. John and Hannah (Skerner) Leake. She was born in Lee county, Illinois, November 28, 1847. Mr. Atkinson is now successfully engaged in farming.

SAMUEL BOYER, farmer, Dixon, son of Abraham and Elizabeth (Bowman) Boyer, was born in Somerset county, Pennsylvania, September 28, 1840. He remained at home with his parents, engaged in farming and attending school, till about the age of fifteen years, when he came to Illinois and engaged at farm labor till the outbreak of the war of the rebellion, when he enlisted in Co. A, 13th Ill. Vol. Inf. He at once started for the front and came in contact with the

enemy for the first time near Lynn Creek, Missouri. He served at the siege of Vicksburg and many other hard-fought battles, and was finally discharged with his regiment at Springfield, Illinois, and returned to Lee county so completely broken down in health that he has been unable to perform a day's work since. As a recompense for injuries received in the service "Uncle Sam" is now paying him a liberal pension. March 15, 1866, he married Miss Rebecca Emerick. She was born in Somerset county, Pennsylvania, July 4, 1848. They are the parents of six children: James H., Barbara E., Alonzo, Maud, Goldie, and William L. In 1877 he moved on his present home, in Sec. 14, T. 22, R. 9, where he is now engaged in farming.

CALVIN BURKETT (deceased) was born in Blair county, Pennsylvania, December 8, 1829. His parents were Jacob and Nancy (Wilcox) Burkett. During early youth he was engaged in attending school and working on the farm. At about the age of twenty-one he came to Lee county, Illinois, by the rivers Ohio, Mississippi and Illinois. Having gained some knowledge of the business of stone and brick masonry, he engaged in and followed it for a number of years, teaching school winters. In December, 1858, he bought a farm of 160 acres from Jerdon Crawford, in Sec. 8, T. 21, R. 10, Nachusa township, and engaged in farming and stock raising. This, however, he only followed a short time, for at the outbreak of the war he enlisted in Cheney's Battery. While in the army his health failed, and after lying in hospital three or four months he was discharged on account of disability. January 2, 1868, he married Miss Mary A., daughter of James K. and Eliza (Bruce) Henry. She was born in Huntingdon county, Pennsylvania, January 8, 1840, and came to Lee county, Illinois, in 1865. Mr. Burkett, by industry, hard work and good management, made for himself and family a good home. He was a member of the Presbyterian church, as is also his surviving wife. They had no children of their own, but have one adopted child, Charles M. Burkett. Mr. Burkett died February 27, 1881, and was buried in the Dixon cemetery.

ERASTUS HART (deceased) was born near Albany, New York, December 14, 1809. He was reared a farmer, and followed that business through life. At Rochester, New York, March 15, 1831, he was united in marriage with Miss Ruth, daughter of Mr. Daniel and Hulda (Webb) Wilcox. She was born in Black River county, New York, December 15, 1812. Soon after his marriage Mr. Hart removed to the State of Pennsylvania, and there engaged in farming. In the summer of 1865 he left the state where he so long lived, and came to Lee county, Illinois, and settled in Dixon. He only remained there one year, when he moved out on his farm he had previously bought in Secs. 25 and 26, T. 22, R. 9. Here he actively engaged in stock raising as well as farm-



ing. He died October 4, 1868, leaving, besides his life-long companion, six children, as follows: Alvisa, wife of S. Lupper; Mariett, wife of T. L. Slocum; Lury, wife of J. Williams; Levi E., Diantha, wife of S. Smith, and Millie, wife of Samuel A. Bender. Levi E. Hart, son of E. and R. Hart, farmer and stock raiser, was born in the State of Pennsylvania, August 30, 1846, and came with his parents to Lee county, Illinois. December 18, 1868, he married Miss Emeline B., daughter of Abanoan and Caroline (Fowler) Hinds. She was born in Susquehanna county, Pennsylvania, June 21, 1846. They are the parents of two children: Sybil L. and Leon. Mr. Hart is proprietor of the old home of his father, and with him his venerable old mother is spending her declining years in peace and comfort.

FRANCIS MILLER, farmer, Nachusa. The yeoman who leaves his native land, dares the ocean's turbulent billows, makes his way to Illinois and here, by incessant toil and constant saving, secures to himself and family an ample and pleasant home of 182 acres of land, second to none in the state, and improves it well, is certainly a success. Such a man is Francis Miller, the subject of these notes. Mr. Miller was born in County Derry, Ireland, in 1833, and like his father was reared to hard work on the farm and had but few educational advantages. In March, 1852, he was married to Miss Jane Burnside, daughter of Josiah Burnside. She was also born in County Derry, Ireland. Immediately after their marriage the twain set sail in the sailing vessel Isaac Wright for America, and after nine weeks' sailing reached New York. He remained at labor in New York a few months, then came to Lee county via Chicago and Rockford. Arriving, he engaged at farm labor by the month or day. He soon purchased a small farm, but in 1872, in partnership with his brother-in-law, James Burnside, bought the farm which he in 1880 secured to himself and now owns, situate in Sec. 19, T. 21, R. 10. He deals somewhat in stock, etc. Mr. Miller's family numbers seven children: Margaret (now Mrs. R. A. Hewet), James, Samuel F., Eliza, William I., Mary, and Josiah.

JOHN M. ALLWOOD, farmer and stock raiser, Nachusa, was born in Lincolnshire, England, March 26, 1830. His parents were John and Ann (Madison) Allwood. He was reared on a farm. His parents being poor, his education was very much neglected. After growing up he labored as a day hand six and a half years. October 18, 1853, he left his native country and friends and set sail for America in the sailing vessel North American, and after a voyage of six weeks and two days landed in New York. He at once left there for Wisconsin and from there started on foot to a point, 200 miles distant, in Iowa, from where he soon after returned to Wisconsin, where he hired out to work on a farm at \$8 per month. Here he continued a little over six years, when



he came to Lee county, Illinois, and hired out to work for Mr. Abijah Powers in Palmyra. Here he remained two years and then went back to Wisconsin, sold a farm he had previously bought, and then went to Iowa, where he bought a farm of 240 acres, on which he lived about three years. Mr. Allwood at this time having a longing desire for Illinois, sold his farm and again returned to Lee county and bought a farm in the south end of Nachusa township, where he is now engaged in farming and stock raising. October 18, 1863, he married Miss Isabella Mostoller, a native of Pennsylvania, born there in 1835 and came to Lee county, Illinois, in 1851. They are the parents of seven children, five of whom are now living: William, Austin, Edgar, George W., Mary E.; John, born August 20, 1864, was drowned in Coon River, at Booneville, Iowa, July 3, 1881; Charles died in infancy.

JOHN M. CRAWFORD (deceased) was born in Blair county, Pennsylvania, March 15, 1825. Early in life he learned the trade of carpenter and cabinet-maker; this he followed until several years after coming to Illinois, having worked on some of the first mills and bridges built in Lee county. April 12, 1849, he married Miss Mary A. Dysart. She was born in Huntingdon county, Pennsylvania, March 8, 1824. They at once came to Illinois, and settled in Lee county on land he had bought previously, having been to Lee county about three years before. He died May 21, 1881, having at the time of his death become one of the largest land owners in Lee county. He was well and favorably known throughout the county, having filled the offices of supervisor and assessor for several terms. He left at his death a wife and six children: the eldest of the children, James A., died June 9, 1881; Milton A., Albert W., Joseph D., Frances J. and Ettie O.

JOHN H. ABBOTT, farmer and stock raiser, Nachusa. In the early part of the seventeenth century the Abbots came from Somersetshire, England, and settled on Staten Island, New Jersey: from them sprang a numerous family, now scattered throughout the United States. They were prominently connected with the Methodist Episcopal church in its early history in America, and are among the first mentioned by Bishop Simpson in his "Cyclopedia of Methodism." John H. Abbott, now of Lee county, Illinois, is one of the descendants of this historic family. He was born in Columbia county, Pennsylvania, November 12, 1818. He was reared on a farm by his parents till the age of fourteen. When at that age his mother died, and little John was thrown on his resources and obliged to take care of himself. After a short time he engaged his services to a Mr. L. B. Rupert, then engaged in boating and transportation, with whom he afterward became a partner and followed the business a number of years. December 14, 1848, he married Miss Ellen Shoemaker, who was born in Columbia county, Penn-

sylvania, November 17, 1827. They are the parents of seven children: Elizabeth J., Amzi S., Robert M., William, Charles B., Martha A. and Mary E. In the spring of 1864 Mr. Abbott came to Lee county, Illinois, bought land in Sec. 29, T. 22, R. 10, where he permanently located and engaged in farming. For the last eleven years he has been commissioner of highways. He is prominently connected with the Methodist Episcopal church. #

ISAAH BRINK, farmer and stock raiser, Nachusa, came to Lee county, Illinois, October 10, 1851. He is the son of Joshua and Rebecca (Cole) Brink, and was born October 17, 1817, in the old State of Pennsylvania. Like his father he was reared a farmer and to a limited extent attended the old subscription schools of his native state. In June, 1842, he was married to Miss Eliza Stiles, and has become the father of six children, three of whom are living: Sarah C. (wife of Perry Cromley), John L. and Charles S. In March, 1852, Mr. Brink rented a cabin near Dixon, into which he moved his family, bade them good-by, and started for California, in company with some other parties who were going to the Golden State with ox teams. He arrived there in September of the same year, and at once engaged in mining, but soon after turned his attention to the carpenter business, which he followed in connection with trading and speculating for about four years. In September, 1856, he returned home, and found his wife engaged in farming on land she had bought with money sent home by her husband during his absence. Mr. Brink made his trip to California a success, inasmuch as he there made the money which gave him a good start in life. His home farm comprises 278 acres of good land. He is also the owner of considerable other property. #

JOHN R. MERRILL (deceased), Nachusa, was born in Londonderry, New Hampshire, in 1804, and was reared on a farm. In April, 1829, he married Miss Lydia C., daughter of Benjamin March. She was born in Londonderry in 1805. In 1839 they emigrated to Illinois, where from its cheap lands he might secure for himself and family a home and enjoy the advantages of a growing country. He first settled in Ogle county, near the line of Lee. Here he entered land, to which he kept adding until he became the owner of a large amount of land in Lee and Ogle counties. He experienced much of the hardships and privations of pioneer life, making many trips to Chicago with a team, hauling produce there and merchandise back, sleeping on the ground and in his wagon nights, getting stalled in sloughs and carrying out his loads on his back to land. He died March 4, 1861. Mrs. Merrill (a former school-mate of the venerable Horace Greeley) is still living, at the advanced age of seventy-six years, and is now (1881) enjoying excellent health and a remarkable memory. They became the parents of two

children (twins). One of them died, aged twenty years and two months. This was a sad bereavement to Mr. Merrill, as he was a kind and indulgent parent as well as a devoted husband. The surviving daughter, Mary A., was born in New Hampshire, February 7, 1831, and is the mother of five children, three of whom are living: Charles W., Walter A. and Mollie L. She has for the past two years been living in Chicago, where her daughter Mollie is attending school. Her son, Charles W. Dutcher, was married November 27, 1879, to Miss Susan A. Kennedy, a native of Ogle county, Illinois.

WILLIAM GARRISON, farmer and stock raiser, Nachusa, is one of the early settlers of Lee county, coming here in the spring of 1845. Mr. Garrison was born in Luzerne county, Pennsylvania, July 22, 1813, and is a son of Mathias and Susannah (Sealey) Garrison. He was reared a farmer and educated to a limited extent in the subscription schools of his native state. At the age of about twenty he started in the business of farming for himself. December 26, 1833, he married Miss Amelia Oman, a native of Columbia county, Pennsylvania. She was born January 31, 1811. In the spring of 1845 he came to Lee county, Illinois, and settled near Dixon, where he entered land and engaged in farming. This he followed four years, when he sold out and bought a saw-mill just over the line in Ogle county, and actively engaged in preparing the material then so necessary for improving the wild prairie with buildings and fences. This he followed about eight years, and then turned his attention to making a permanent home for himself. He bought the N.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 30, T. 22, R. 10 E., which he has made one of the very pleasant homes of Nachusa township. Mrs. Garrison died December 27, 1870, on the home where she so long lived, after living to see her family all grown and the country that was so wild and desolate all made into beautiful farms and dotted here and there with schools and churches. Mr. Garrison's second marriage was with Mrs. Lucinda Shute, October 15, 1872. She has by a former husband one son, Abram L. Shute. Mr. Garrison is the father of fifteen children by his first wife, nine of whom are living: John, Peter, George L., Hester A., Hannah, Elizabeth E., William H., Harriett E. and Martha J. Mr. Garrison has been identified with the Methodist Episcopal church for many years. When a boy he was converted to Christ, and since that time has been a consistent member of the church. Two of his sons, Peter and William H., served their country in the late rebellion, Peter in the 75th Ill. Vol. Inf., and is now carrying a rebel bullet; William in Cheney's Battery.

According to tradition the founder of the Harsex family in the State of Maine was a Saxon-German, and accompanied Burgoyne's army from Europe to America in the same ship which brought that



celebrated general to the shores of this continent in the time of the revolutionary war. Soon after his arrival in America Mr. Hausen declared his intentions to aid the colonists in their struggle for liberty, and at once became forage master for Gen. Washington, and rendered good service throughout the war, which gave birth to one of the grandest nations that ever existed. He finally married and settled in the State of Maine, where he reared a family, one of whom was Charles, who married Mary J. Hilton, and came to Lee county in 1840, bringing with him a family of ten children, the youngest of whom was Norman, the subject of this sketch, then a lad of nine years. His advantages of education were very limited, being only such as the old subscription schools of those days afforded, but the school of experience, from which may be learned lessons of industry and thrift, was sufficient, and our subject an apt scholar, as is proved by the success which has attended his business affairs so far through life. He began life for himself by working out by the month, and is now the owner of a good farm of 160 acres in Sec. 9, T. 21, R. 10, well improved and well stocked, besides a farm of 160 acres in Meriden, La Salle county, Illinois. He was born October 2, 1831, and married Lucy L. Herrick, July 8, 1866. She is a daughter of Hiram Herrick, was born in Vermont, and came to Lee county when a small child. They have one child, Jennie, born August 20, 1870.

GEORGE PALMER, farmer and stock raiser, Nachusa, is a son of Daniel and Christenia (Shuge) Palmer, and was born in Northampton, Pennsylvania, September 11, 1808. His early youth was spent on a farm. At about the age of twenty he began learning the trade of a miller with his father. This business he followed a number of years in connection with farming. In 1843 he married Miss Catherine Stettler, of Columbia county, Pennsylvania, and in the summer of 1846 they came to Illinois and settled in Lee county in what is now Nachusa township. In 1849 he bought a little home of forty acres in Sec. 32, T. 22, R. 10. To this he kept adding till his farm now contains 160 acres. This he has well improved and he is able to say that he has earned it by his own hard labor and industry. This is now one of the model farms of Nachusa township. Mr. Palmer is the father of two children, one of whom is now living. Dr. Thomas D. Palmer, born August 15, 1846, is now engaged in the practice of medicine at Paw Paw, Lee county, Illinois. He is a graduate of Davis Medical College, of Chicago.

JOHN H. BURKETT, farmer, Dixon, is a son of John M. and Mary (Fleck) Burkett, and was born in Lee county, Illinois, March 28, 1854. He was reared on the farm and educated in the common schools and at the city school of Dixon. December 9, 1874, he married Miss Ann



Ophelia, daughter of Erastus and Mary Cortright. She was born in Lee county, Illinois. They have three children: Mary O., Annie N. and one infant. Mr. Burkett is engaged in farming. He is a clever, energetic young man.

JACOB WERTMAN, farmer and stock raiser, Nachusa, was born in Columbia county, Pennsylvania, November 11, 1811. His parents were Henry and Anna M. (Krymmin) Wertman. They were also natives of Pennsylvania; and his grandfather, Michael Wertman, was a native of Germany and came to America about the middle of the last century. Our subject, Jacob, was reared on a farm and early educated in the art of being a hardy tiller of the soil. These practical lessons were like seeds sown on good ground, for they brought forth that in after life which is the fruit of industry and a sound judgment. In the spring of 1838 Mr. Wertman left the old associations of home to seek his fortune in the then far west. After many weeks of weary travel by water and on foot he arrived in Dixon, Lee county, Illinois. Having early in life gained some knowledge of the trade of carpenter, this he now followed, in connection with other work, till he earned the means with which to enter some government land. Thus he secured for himself the foundation for his future home in Sec. 4, T. 21, R. 10. February 20, 1851, he married Miss Mary E., daughter Solomon and Jane (Buckalu) Shellhammer. She was born in Columbia county, Pennsylvania, August 15, 1830, and came with her parents to Lee county, Illinois, in 1837. Though but a child at the time, she well remembers the trip, which occupied eight weeks and was made with horses and wagon. Mr. and Mrs. Wertman are now spending their declining years surrounded with all the blessings that a life of industry and honest toil will produce. They are the parents of an interesting family of four children: Charles H., Thomas J., Alice M. and Willard L. Three of whom yet remain at the old home. Charles H. is married and has two children: Harry J. and Herbert T.

THOMAS J. WERTMAN, farmer, Franklin Grove, is the son of Jacob and Mary E. (Shellhamer) Wertman, and was born in Lee county, May 30, 1854, and like his father was reared a farmer, educated in the common schools, but was more especially trained to the realities of hard toil and industry. December 24, 1879, he married Miss Lucetta A., daughter of Harrison and Lydia Hansen. She was born in Lee county, Illinois, July 29, 1854.

In the early part of the present century Mr. William Brandon emigrated from the north of Ireland to America, and settled in Pennsylvania. Soon after coming to America he married Triphenia, a daughter of Benjamin Fuller, Esq., a native of Massachusetts. Of this union were fourteen children, one of whom was Benjamin F., the

subject of this sketch. He was born January 11, 1814, in Luzerne county, Pennsylvania. His early youth was spent with his parents on a farm and attending the old subscription schools of his boyhood days, the latter only to a limited extent. In the fall of 1837 Mr. Brandon left his native state, as well as his old associates, and started for the proverbial green fields, and after a thirty-four day's trip by land and water arrived on the enchanting prairie lands of Lee county, Illinois. His first location was made near Dixon, where he bought a claim, but a few years later bought the farm where he now lives. Although it was then but a wild prairie, it now has an air of home comfort, and contentment. Its thrifty fruit-trees and beautiful large black-walnut groves indicate the proprietor to be a man of good taste and industry. October 8, 1841, Mr. Brandon was married to Miss Margaret, daughter of Elisha Courtright, Esq.; she was born in Luzerne county, Pennsylvania, February 15, 1825, and came to Lee county with her parents in an early day. They have six children: Charles D., Milton R., George W., William, Sarah T. and Anna O. Mr. and Mrs. Brandon are members of the Methodist Episcopal church.

JACOB EMMERT, retired farmer, Nachusa, is the son of Joseph and Catherine (Avey) Emmert, and was born in Washington county, Maryland, July 23, 1807. He was reared a farmer, which business he followed through life. December 16, 1830, he married Miss Mary Newcomer, also a native of Washington county, Maryland. She was born February 15, 1811. In 1844 they came to Illinois and settled in Ogle county, but one year later removed to near where he now lives in Lee county. He is the father of eight children, five of whom are living: Zachariah, William H., Jacob M., Susan, and Catherine. Jacob M. enlisted in Co. C, 34th Ill. Vol. Inf., in September 1861, and followed the fortunes of war nearly four years. In the fall of 1864 he was detached as sergeant of Gen. Jefferson C. Davis' escort, but again joined his regiment. He was at the grand review at Washington, and was finally discharged with the glorious old 34th in 1865. December 12, 1870, he married Miss Mary E. Ohmert, of Lee county; they have two children: Gracie L. and Kittie C.

MARSHALL MCNEEL, farmer and stock raiser, Nachusa, was born in Pennsylvania, May 29, 1836, and came to Lee county, in company with his parents, in April 1847, when a lad of eleven years. Here he grew to manhood, with but a limited means of gaining an education. His few spare moments, however, were devoted to his books, but the greater portion of his time was employed in the hardy pursuit of the labors of improving a farm on the wild prairie. At the time he settled here the country was without the advantages of a market nearer than Chicago, where he has hauled wheat with an ox team, the average time of mak-

ing a trip being about thirteen days, sleeping on the ground or in the wagon as he could catch it. Hauling wheat over 100 miles, fording streams and wading mud, would not pay hotel fare. When Mr. McNeel's parents, Thomas C. and Nancy (Russell) McNeel, started in Lee county, they were \$80 behind an even start with the world, but by hard work and good management they succeeded in making a good home for themselves and family. Mr. McNeel died in April 1876; his ancestors were from the north of Ireland. Mrs. McNeel died August 2, 1881. Marshall, the subject of our sketch, was first married October 23, 1862, to Miss Anna E. Sharrar; she died August 1, 1877. His present wife was Charlotte E. Miller, to whom he was married August 8, 1878; she was born in Pennsylvania, December 25, 1845. It is but just to say of Mr. McNeel that his home is one of the neatest in the township.

JOHN S. EICHOLTZ, wagon and carriage maker, Nachusa, is a son of William and Lydia (Hanes) Eicholtz. He was born in Adams county, Pennsylvania, September 24, 1842. His early youth was spent on the farm. He received a good business education. After he grew to manhood he engaged in farm labor till the spring of 1868, when he came to Lee county. A few months later he became an apprentice in the wood-work department of the wagon and carriage shops then in operation at Nachusa, and of which a few years later he became the proprietor, and where he is now, in 1881, actively engaged in the manufacture of a superior class of wagons and carriages. In connection with this business he has a blacksmith and general repair shop. Thus, while many have continued as day laborers, Mr. Eicholtz has by industry, fair dealing and good management built up for himself a trade and reputation of which any young man should have a just reason to be proud. December 2, 1869, he married Miss Charlotte Stover, a native of Pennsylvania. By this union he has four children: William B., Harry M., Edith M. and Maud May.

JACOB HITTLE (deceased) was born in Columbia county, Pennsylvania, May 8, 1807. The business of his life was farming. August 9, 1835, he was united in marriage with Miss Nancy Kulp. She was born in Columbia county, Pennsylvania, September 11, 1811, and is still living on their old home in Lee county, Illinois, where they settled as early as 1841. Mr. Hittle died February 6, 1877, after a life of hard labor and industry, leaving to his family a comfortable home of 200 acres of excellent land. Mr. and Mrs. Hittle were among the sturdy pioneers of Lee county, whose word was considered as good as their bond. In his will Mr. Hittle wisely set off to his daughter Mary E., 40 acres of his farm, on account of her being in delicate health. The members of his family now living are, besides his wife, Fannie, wife of



*John Yetter*





John A. Sleer, now living in Carroll county, Illinois; Hannah M., wife of J. W. Wingert; Mary E., Alexander P. and Samson C., born in Lee county, Illinois, December 27, 1847. He was married February 5, 1874, to Miss Caroline Albright, a native of Pennsylvania. She was born April 11, 1852, and came to Lee county with her parents when a child. They have two children: Anna J. and Elvie E. Mr. Hittle is now in charge of the old home farm, and is engaged in farming and stock raising. He is a thorough, industrious young man, warm-hearted and friendly almost to a fault, yet careful and prudent at all times.

CHESTER HARRINGTON, stock raiser and farmer, Nachusa, came to Lee county, Illinois, in 1837, from the State of New York, making the trip with a team of horses and a wagon. He was born in Washington, New York, August 22, 1813, and is the son of Ebenezer and Paulina (Donlen) Harrington. He was reared a farmer, and educated in the common schools of his native state, finishing his education in the Homer Academy, in Cortland county, New York. He early engaged in teaching, but principally followed the business of farming through life. Soon after his arrival in what is now Lee county he bought a claim of Moses Crombie, and when the land came into market entered and bought it from the government. This farm he still (1881) owns. November 14, 1843, he married Miss Zerina, daughter of Cyrus and Pluma (Burton) Chamberlin, a native of the State of New York. The issue of this marriage is three children living: Inez Ione, Chester E. and Cyrus C. Mr. Harrington has always made it his home in this county, except fourteen years spent in Ogle county, where he also owned a farm. While in Ogle county he was four times elected by the people of Grand Detour township to fill the position of supervisor, and was in the spring of 1881 elected supervisor of the township of Nachusa. Besides the first land he entered in Sec. 13, T. 22, R. 9, he also owns a farm of 160 acres in Sec. 19, T. 21, R. 10. Mr. Harrington's principal business is stock raising, though he also farms to some extent.

JOHN GARRISON, farmer and stock raiser, Nachusa, is a son of William and Amelia (Oman) Garrison, and was born in Columbia county, Pennsylvania, July 29, 1835, and came to Lee county, Illinois, with his parents in the spring of 1845, arriving here June 4. Thus it will be seen that John Garrison early became identified with Lee county. He was raised on the farm and educated as a hardy son of toil, with but a very slim chance of school learning. March 26, 1861, he was united in marriage with Miss Maranda, daughter of Mr. Jonathan and Sallie A. (Klintob) DePuy. She was born in Luzerne county, Pennsylvania, June 3, 1842, and came to Lee county with her parents when a small child. They are the parents of eight children:

Emma J., wife of C. B. Brader; Charles A., Addie M., George H., Priscilla M., Lucinda R., Elizabeth E. and Jacob F. In the spring of 1866 he moved on the farm where he now lives, in Sec. 25, T. 22, R. 9. His real estate comprises 240 acres of good land. His home farm is one of the very desirable ones of Nachusa township. He is engaged in stock raising as well as farming.

ALEXANDER DEPUY, farmer and stock raiser, Nachusa, son of Jonathan and Sallie A. (Klintob) DePuy, was born in Luzerne county, Pennsylvania, December 7, 1838, and came to Lee county, Illinois, with his parents in 1846. Here young Alexander grew to manhood, with only such educational advantages as were afforded in this county at that time. Like his father he was reared a farmer and thoroughly trained in all that pertains to agricultural pursuits. In 1861 he enlisted in Co. C, 34th reg. Ill. Vol. Inf. He took part in the great battle of Shiloh; was with his regiment during its three years' campaigns; reenlisted as veteran with the same company and regiment, and with the same was honorably discharged in 1865. February 15, 1866, he married Miss Mary A. Bitner, a native of Somerset county, Pennsylvania. She was born June 11, 1840. They have no children of their own, but have an adopted child, Daisie May. Mr. DePuy is now actively engaged in farming and stock raising. His home is one of the beautiful locations of this township.

GEORGE J. GITT, farmer and stock raiser, Nachusa, son of William and Lydia (Wilt) Gitt, was born in Adams county, Pennsylvania, October 5, 1844. During his early youth he lived in town, but was principally engaged in working on a farm and to a limited extent attended school, and by applying himself to study and observation he has gained a fair business education. In 1863 he became a soldier in the war for the Union in the 165th Penn. Inf. After his discharge he engaged in railroading. In the spring of 1865 he came to Lee county, Illinois, and began working on a farm by the month. May 18, 1868, he married Miss Samantha, daughter of James Dawson, a native of Union county, Ohio. They have two children: Cora M. and James W. In March, 1873, Mr. Gitt took charge of the old and well known farm of Joseph Crawford, Esq., and still continues to successfully carry on the business of farming and stock raising.

HENRY BOTHE, farmer and stock raiser, Amboy, was born near Mindon, Prussia, December 26, 1841; he was reared on a farm and educated in the common schools of the country of his birth. In the summer of 1859 he left the home of his childhood and sailed for America, landing in Baltimore July 4 of the same year. Four days later he came to Lee county, Illinois. Here he found his father, who had preceded the family to prepare a home for them on their arrival.

Here young Henry engaged in farming with his father till September 9, 1861, when he enlisted to fight the battles of his adopted country, but was discharged on account of disability, September 8, 1862, thus losing his bounty due him as a three-years soldier. For a number of years Mr. Bothe suffered from the effects of disease contracted while in the army. He was married September 4, 1864, to Miss Catherina Hotzel. She was born in Germany, January 14, 1844, and came to this country in 1847 with her parents and settled in Lee county. They are the parents of eight children: Fredrick W., Anna E., John H., Christian F., Minnie H., Elvina C., Katie M. and Lillie C. In 1868 Mr. Bothe bought his present home farm of 132 acres, in the south part of Nachusa township, where he is engaged in farming and stock raising, and by prudence, industry and good management is making it a success.

ISRAEL SLOTHOWER, grain dealer, Nachusa, was born in Adams county, Pennsylvania, April 24, 1843. He was reared a farmer, as was also his father, who died when Israel was but three years old. His educational advantages were only such as the common schools of his native state afforded. At the age of eighteen years he entered as an apprentice to a blacksmith. After learning the trade he followed the business till he entered the army as a soldier in the war for the Union. After his discharge he came to Lee county and engaged in the blacksmith business at Nachusa. This he followed three years, then went to Iowa, bought, opened up and improved a farm, which was, on June 18, 1870, swept over by a terrible tornado, completely demolishing his new home and all his improvements, the accumulation of years of labor and industry. He, however, again rebuilt his home, but soon after sold out and returned to Nachusa and engaged his services to Mr. John Dysart, then in the grain trade at Nachusa, and two years later became partner with Mr. Dysart in the business and has since managed the business to the entire satisfaction of all parties. His wife was Miss Jennie A. Stover, a native of Pennsylvania. They have three children: Anna N., Retta B. and Carrie.

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#### ALTO TOWNSHIP.

This township is in surface gently undulating, or rolling prairie, the eastern portion being quite rolling, the western more level, and some portions low and flat. There is very little land but can be used either under plow or as pasture for stock. The soil is a rich, black loam. Plum Thicket, a grove of about twenty acres, situated nearly in the center, is the only natural grove in the township. The Plum



Thicket run is the only stream in Alto township. There are four or five driven wells from 100 to 200 feet deep. There is plenty of good wholesome water, nearly soft, on every farm. Wells are from fifteen to fifty feet in depth.

Alto was first settled at Plum Thicket. The first house built there in 1847 by John Grimes, the first settler, is still standing. The old state road running from Ottawa to Galena passes through this township. On this road the early judges were wont to travel with pistol in hand (on their way from Ottawa to Galena, there being many hard, reckless characters, who roamed through this country engaged in horse stealing, and almost as dangerous as Black Hawk in his day and age. A wagon-road was laid out from Paw Paw to Rochelle, running through this township, in 1856. The above roads have since been abandoned, and wagon-roads are now laid out and well worked on most of the section lines; one or two are on quarter and half sections. The first family settling in this township, in 1843, was that of John Grimes, now dead. The second, who came about two years later, was the Rev. J. Wood, a Baptist preacher, who remained two or three years and removed to Earlville, La Salle county, Illinois. The next coming into Alto was Mr. Jeddediah Loneridge, coming in about 1852, who remained about twenty years and removed to Nebraska, and has since died. Mr. Loneridge was noted for his skill at making baskets and various other useful articles. Mr. James Holcomb and father's family were the next comers, followed by Mr. Hubbel Williams and Mason Herrick. Soon after came the Mills family, James Tyler, and C. R. Hall, followed by the Kirbys, McDonnells, Stewards, Carpenters, and others, filling the township up quite rapidly.

#### ORGANIZATION.

A petition for organization was presented by the citizens to the supervisors of Lee county, and at a meeting held in the school-house, district No. 3, April 3, 1860, they organized by appointing Hiram C. Holcomb chairman; Charles R. Hall was elected moderator, and James Tyler clerk. Being duly qualified by H. C. Holcomb, justice of the peace, the polls were declared open at nine o'clock. At this meeting a motion was made and carried that the town be divided into four road districts. A motion was also made to levy a tax of forty cents on \$100 for road purposes; a motion was also made and carried to raise two mills on the dollar for town expenses. A motion was made and carried to keep up all cattle at night, and if left out and damage was done, for first offense the owner to pay all damages, for second offense the owner to pay double the damage. A motion was made and carried that every man be his own pound-master. At the close of the polls

the following first town officers were declared elected (forty-seven votes were polled): for supervisor, C. R. Hall; town clerk, James Tyler; collector, Josiah Carpenter; assessor, James Tyler; justices of the peace, Daniel Carey and H. C. Holcomb; constables, Josiah Carpenter and John Dorson; overseer of poor, Jeddediah E. Loneridge; commissioners of highways, James A. Smith, Roan McClure, and M. Mills. Its present officers are: supervisor, Gardiner W. Thompson; town clerk, S. J. Whetston; assessor, James Kirby; collector, Owen Kinney; commissioners of highways, John Dunn, Irving Gordiner, and O. R. Rickalson; justices of the peace, W. F. Gallaher and S. J. Whetston; constables, Owen Kinney and R. N. Coleman; town treasurer, Harmon Van Patten; school trustees, George Carey, James Kirby, and M. M. Miller.

In the winter of 1869 and 1870 there was an agitation commenced as to a railroad through Alto township from the southeast to the northwest, known first as the Hinckley road, now the Chicago & Iowa railroad. Great excitement was caused and much opposition made toward the enterprise. A call was made for a meeting to see if the citizens were willing to subscribe for \$32,000 bonds, payable when the track was laid, and cars running on the same. The meeting was held, and upon vote being taken it showed as a result nearly two-thirds in favor of the scheme, or 93 for and 50 against. A survey was made and grading commenced on Monday, September 26, 1870, and the enterprise was pushed ahead rapidly, and on December 31, 1870, it was finished to Rochelle, Ogle county, and trains sent over. Then there was a lull and no regular trains were run till April 1871, and only once a day till 1872. The great Chicago fire and the panic occurring about that time had a depressing effect through this section, and a few years later the \$32,000 bonds were compromised and reduced to \$25,000, and at a lower rate of interest, and have since been reduced to about \$15,000. The railroad offices and warehouse were in Wesley Steward's barn for some time after the road was in operation.

#### CREAMERIES.

There are two creameries in Alto township, the Alto creamery being widely known. It is located on Sec. 5, half a mile south of the Ogle county line. In 1873 several farmers united, with a capital of about \$5,000, erecting a suitable building for the manufacture of butter and cheese, milk being furnished from 125 to 250 cows. The creamery has been kept in continual operation since commencement. John H. Bacon is superintendent and salesman and Daniel Carey is secretary. There is a small factory called the Walnut Grove creamery owned and carried on by John Walker, and is located on the east line and about

the middle of Alto township. He makes butter and cheese from the milk of about fifty cows.

#### SCHOOLS.

There are seven school-houses in the township, costing \$8,000. There are seven school districts, one a union with Willow creek in the southeast corner of Alto township. Alto has a school fund of \$10,000. Miss Carrie Whitcomb, now Mrs. George Addy, was the first school teacher in Alto township. The school building in district No. 3, located at Steward, is one of the finest and best built structures for school purposes in Lee county. It cost nearly \$4,000. It has four large, commodious rooms, on two floors, beside ante-rooms, cloak-rooms, etc. The other six houses are also good substantial buildings, costing about \$700 each.

#### THE STEWARD METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

A meeting was called and held in the railroad depot April 1874. At this meeting a building committee was chosen and elected. The committee were J. C. Curry, H. A. Robinson, H. Van Patten, V. W. Wells, Jeremiah Tyler, Jas. A. Smith, Merritt Miller, R. M. Piele, and John Yetter. M. L. Barnett was elected treasurer, and J. C. Curry clerk. The committee proceeded at once toward their work, having a plan drawn by Perkins Richardson, of Aurora. The plan was adopted and the contract was at once made with T. J. Labdell, of Paw Paw, for its erection. The building was completed and ready for dedication September 6, 1874. Trains were run free from Chicago and Mount Morris, and a free dinner was served on the day of dedication. The church is the finest building of its kind between Aurora and Rochelle. It is 36×52, and 28 feet high to the eaves, with steeple about 80 feet high. It has a fine basement room, the whole size of the building, for Sunday-school purposes. The church has seating for about 500. It is free from debt and both church and Sunday-school are in a flourishing condition under the pastoral care of Rev. W. H. Tibbals and T. J. Lawton, superintendent of Sabbath-school. The original cost of church building was about \$5,000. Its present officers are Wesley Steward, T. J. Lawton, V. W. Wells, H. Van Patten, and C. W. Herbert, trustees, and T. J. Lawton, treasurer.

The Fidelia Lodge, No. 635, I.O.O.F., was organized at Lee, March 9, 1877. The following grand officers, pro tem., being present: G. W. Clark, M.W.G.M.; M. T. Ellinwood, W.M.; B. J. Warren, V.G., C. W. Younggren, G.S.; S. J. Whetston, G.C.; W. R. Baumbach, G.W. They proceeded to institute the lodge, after which the regular officers were elected: J. N. Prentice, N.G.; J. J. Meyer, V.G.;

C. W. Younggren, secretary; C. Vanderverter, treasurer. The other charter members were J. L. Dyas, H. W. Bryant, F. Fitzgerald, W. R. Baumbach, J. N. Prentice, J. Mullins, C. W. Younggren, and C. Vanderverter. On May 22, 1880, the N.G. of Fidelia Lodge, No. 635, by request, appointed a committee, consisting of Brethren Harris, Hallet and Younggren, to confer with brethren of the order residing at Steward and vicinity to consider the propriety of removal of Fidelia Lodge to Steward. At a subsequent meeting the committee reported favorable, and upon vote being taken it was unanimously carried to petition the Grand Lodge for removal, and upon receipt of the petition the M.W.G.M., G. W. Berggren, deeming it for the best interest of the order, granted a warrant for removal. The lodge as now situated in the village of Steward is in a very healthy condition, being financially and socially strong. Its present officers are A. R. Michael, N.G.; W. B. Griffith, V.G.; John Dunn, treasurer, and S. J. Whetston, secretary.

Alto township now presents such a contrast in comparison to its first settlement that one not accustomed to its beautiful groves and hedges would take it for a country well and naturally wooded. Most of the farmers are engaged in grain raising. Francis and Geo. Carey, Wesley Steward and Gardiner W. Thompson are largely engaged in sheep raising. Several farmers have put in drain tiling, finding a fine percentage of gain in crops. When this township was first settled the land was bare of tree, shrub or fence. Now there are several beautiful groves of walnut, maple and willow, as well as miles of fine hedge fences of willow, osage, maple, etc.

#### STEWARD.

The village of Steward is situated a trifle west of the center of the town of Alto. Its location is excellently drained, the water supply is bountiful, easily obtained, and is justly celebrated for its purity. The town is located on the Chicago & Iowa railroad, just half way between its termini, Aurora and Forresteron. It was surveyed and platted just subsequent to the completion of the above named road, in the year 1870, and although its growth has not been rapid it has been of a healthy and substantial character. The village derives its name from Wesley Steward, Esq., upon whose farm the town was laid out. At this writing it contains a population of two hundred people. It has always been aided by its founder in all schemes for the promotion of the common welfare, and in these he has had the valuable assistance of an unusually intelligent community. The business of the village is extensive and of a growing character. As a grain shipping point it has few equals in the state, the large country tributary to it and the



healthy competition in the business combining to make it a good market for the cereal crops. Live stock is also largely shipped, and it is a good distributing point for the lumber and coal trades. In the general merchandise line the business is very fair.

The grain trade is the largest in importance, and is represented by two firms, whose combined business is very extensive. The first, as to time of location, is that of Wesley Steward & Co. (Wesley Steward and G. F. Henning). They have a steam elevator with a capacity of 35,000 bushels. The others, Messrs. Christopher Jorgens & Co., are later comers, but are doing a large business. Their elevator capacity is about 15,000 bushels. Both of these houses are largely engaged in other lines of trade, such as lumber, coal, lime, salt, etc., and their business is drawn from a wide-spread territory. Among other prominent business houses is that of H. A. Robinson, dealer in groceries, dry goods and drugs. Mr. Robinson has been postmaster of the village ever since its inception. W. T. Preston, groceries and notions; E. O'Neil, grocer; V. A. Billion & Co., hardware and agricultural implements; W. P. Griffith, blacksmith and wagon shop; S. J. Bowles, harness; O. I. Selgelid, boots and shoes; G. A. Ruekman & Co., meat market; C. Foster & Co., churn manufacturers; S. J. Whetston, paint shop; A. A. Chilson, agent American Express Company, and Chicago & Illinois railroad.

The "Alto House," in the hands of S. J. Bowles, is a comfortable hostelry.

The town is not yet incorporated, but has a resident justice of the peace, Mr. S. J. Whetston, who is also town clerk.

The people of the village and surrounding country have reason to congratulate themselves on the high moral tone and general intelligence which pervades their community. That they have good grounds upon which to base their claims in this regard is evidenced by their church and school accommodations. The Methodist Episcopal church have erected in the village a handsome edifice at a cost of \$5,000, and have also a neat parsonage for their pastor. The present occupant of their pulpit, the Rev. W. H. Tibbals, is very generally esteemed.

The graded school is another evidence of the general thrift and prosperity. The building, just completed at a cost of \$4,000, is an ornament to the village, and one of which more pretentious towns might justly be proud.

The Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church, located in Alto township, was organized June 25, 1870. At the meeting Michael Knutson was chosen chairman and Rasmus O. Hill secretary. Prayer being offered they proceeded to adopt articles of faith and confederation and to elect officers. Peter O. Espe, Peter O. Hill, and Elias O. Espe were

electd trustees, and Michael Knutson, Rasmus O. Hill, and Ole O. Hill, deacons.

The church is prettily situated on the southeast corner of four corners, one mile west of De Kalb county line, and three miles south of Ogle county line, and three miles directly east of Steward; its size is 36×56, 16 feet high, and it has a seating capacity for about 400. It has yard and sheds for teams. Its cost was about \$2,300, and it is clear of debt. Public services are held twice a month. The Sunday-school averages about fifty. The society is in a quiet and healthy condition.

The present officers are Rasmus O. Hill and John Abelson, pastors; Peter O. Hill, John Oleson, and Nels Ullestad, deacons; Elias O. Espe, Ole J. Kroe, and C. J. Knutson, trustees, and S. H. Sander-son, secretary. The Sunday-school superintendents are Peter O. Hill and Nels Ullestad.

#### BIOGRAPHICAL.

WESLEY STEWARD, grain and stock buyer and shipper, lumber, coal, etc., Steward, was born in the Susquehanna valley, at the foot of the Alleghany mountains, Pennsylvania, October 27, 1837. He removed with his parents to Illinois, locating in Kendall county, in June 1838. His mother, eighty-two years of age, is still living. His youth and early manhood, till twenty-two years old, was spent at home on the farm. He removed to Lee county, locating in Alto township in August 1858. He received a limited education, mostly in a saw-mill, from a Dabach arithmetic, Webster's speller and reader. He has held every office in the gift of his township. Mr. Steward was married December 3, 1862, to Julia A. Short, who died in August 1869. He was again married January 6, 1873, to Mary A. Billion, who died March 14, 1881. He has two children: Bertha and Guy. Mr. Steward is one of the largest farmers and stock raisers in this township. He has about 1,000 sheep. Has raised in one year 840 acres of wheat, and has over 2,100 acres in this township and vicinity. He has also control and management of about 1,300 acres belonging to his brother Lewis, living at Plano. He is also largely engaged in grain and stock buying and shipping and dealing in lumber and coal. He has one of the largest elevators between Chicago and the Mississippi river. Mr. Steward was largely influential in getting the Chicago & Iowa railroad (formerly known as the Hinckley road) through this township. Mr. Steward is one of the most enterprising and influential business men of this section. The village and post-office were named in his honor.

GARDNER W. THOMPSON, farmer, Lee, was born in Pittston, Wyoming Valley, near Wilkesbarre, Pennsylvania, July 11, 1841. His worthy parents are both living, his father, Isaac Thompson, whose portrait represents Alto township, eighty-four and mother at eighty-two

years of age. He received a common school education in Pennsylvania, and spent his youth and early manhood till twenty-four in that state. He came west and located in Alto township, Lee county, Illinois, in 1864. Mr. Thompson tried hard to serve his country in the late civil war, enlisting five times, but every time was taken with severe sickness, disabling him for service. He is at this writing supervisor of Alto township, making the seventh consecutive time elected to this office. He has held other local town offices. Mr. Thompson was married April 26, 1873, to Mary E. Howell. They have one child, Frank G. The aged and worthy parents of Mr. Thompson are now living with him; they are the parents of fifteen children, the one now living with them being their youngest. The father of Mr. Thompson was born, reared and lived on the old homestead in Pennsylvania fifty-eight years. They have been worthy members of the Methodist Episcopal church about sixty-five years. Mr. Thompson has a 240 acre farm, and is largely engaged in sheep raising, having about 200. He also has 30 head of horses and other stock, and a well cultivated farm, and is one of Alto's most popular citizens.

MAJ. THOMAS J. LAWTON, farmer, Steward, was born in Jefferson county, New York, August 11, 1813. He received a common school education in his native county, but he spent his youth and young manhood in western New York, at Rochester and Buffalo. The title of major he won during a filibustering expedition in the years 1836 and 1837, it being at the time of the Canadian rebellion against the queen of England, and had many thrilling adventures during these months. At an evacuation from Navy Island about forty were barely saved from going over the falls at Niagara. On March 4, 1837, they had a skirmish on the ice near Point Au Pellee Island on Lake Erie. In the spring of 1838 he went to Cleveland, Ohio, and in 1839 removed to Circleville and engaged with M. L. Barnett in the grocery business, (they also owned and run boats on the Ohio canal from Portsmouth to Cleveland,) remaining till 1841, when he removed to Piqua, Ohio, and with M. L. Barnett engaged in the forwarding and general grain and commission business till July 1871. In 1871 he removed and located in Alto, Lee county, Illinois. In 1861 Maj. Lawton raised Co. K, 1st Ohio, remaining with his company about one year, when he was ordered to headquarters and promoted and served as brigade and division quartermaster during his term of enlistment. He has been local justice of the peace of Alto at Steward for several years, and has also held other local town offices. In the year 1850 he went with a company of ninety persons on an overland trip to California with ox teams for mining and trading purposes, where he remained two years. Politically he is a republican. He was married in 1840, to Angeline E. Crocker. They have one daughter, Mrs. Gilbert F. Heming, of



Steward; have buried four sons. He has, since locating west, been engaged in grain and stock buying and shipping. Mr. Lawton is a Royal Arch Mason, a leading member of the Steward Methodist Episcopal church, and, for one of his age, one of the most active business men of this section.

REV. W. H. TIBBALS, pastor of the Steward Methodist Episcopal church, Steward, was born in Athens county, Ohio, May 28, 1829. His mother, seventy-nine years of age, is still living. His youth, till nearly twelve years of age, was spent in Ohio on a farm. His father and family moved to Illinois in 1841, and he consequently knew many of the hardships of early pioneer life, having to go eighty miles to mill. In 1850 Mr. Tibbals went to California in search of gold, going overland and returning by the Isthmus and New Orleans to Delaware, Ohio. Upon his return he commenced study at the Ohio Wesleyan University at Delaware, graduating in 1855; he then joined the Pittsburg conference, Pennsylvania, and remained twelve years in that conference. He then came west and joined the Rock River conference, Illinois, in 1867. In the spring of 1862 he was elected captain of Co. L, 14th Penn. Cav., going to the front on the Potomac with his regiment. After about eight months he resigned to accept the colonelcy of the 2d Ohio Inf., at the hand of ex-Governor Todd, of Ohio. At the expiration of the six months for which the regiment was enlisted he was engaged for about two years in making speeches and recruiting men and taking them to the front. Mr. Tibbals is a leading member and preacher in the Methodist Episcopal church and has never lost a Sunday or an appointment during his ministerial life. March 24, 1857, Mr. Tibbals married a niece of ex-Governor Ford, of Ohio. They have three children living: Mary, Dilla, and William, and three dead. He has a 331 acre farm in Alto township clear of debt, and has put up a new windmill and a large new barn this season. His farm is being well managed.

HOLDEN P. BLY, Lee, was born in Norway, April 17, 1832. He received a common school education at home, where his youth was spent till twenty-two years old. On April 24, 1855, he started for America, landing at Quebec, Canada, and coming directly to Bradford, Lee county, where he worked at the blacksmiths' trade for three years and then commenced farming. In 1865 he removed to Alto township. He is a member of the Evangelical Lutheran church, Lee county congregation. He was married January 1, 1858, to Julia G. Sexy. They have seven children: Peter, Julia, John, Bertha, Helle, Carrie, and Martin. He has a good farm of 160 acres stocked and under good cultivation.

JACOB P. BLY, farmer, Lee, was born in Norway, where his



father still lives, June 1, 1830. He received a limited common school education in his native country. His young manhood till twenty-five years of age was spent as a sailor. In 1855 he came to America, landing at Quebec, Canada. Coming directly west he located in Bradford township, Lee county, Illinois, and commenced farming, remaining about ten years. He then removed to Alto township. He is a member of the Evangelical Lutheran church, Lee county congregation. He was married June 21, 1863, to Thurbor Oleson. They have five children: Gury, Peter W., John O., Martha M., Johanna M. He has a farm of 320 acres, under good cultivation, with good buildings, and is a leading citizen of the township.

VINCENT W. WELLS, farmer, Rochelle, was born in Sullivan, Madison county, New York, November 21, 1826. His parents are dead. He was educated in the State of New York. His youth till about fifteen was spent in Madison county, New York, on a farm. About 1841 he removed with his parents to Orleans county, New York, remaining till twenty-three years of age. He then went to Virginia and remained one year and returned, removing with his parents in 1850 to Pembroke, Genesee county, New York. In 1856 he came west, locating first at Plano, Kendall county, Illinois, where he lived four years. He then removed to Lee county. He has held several local town offices. He was married January 13, 1856, to Elizabeth Rawley. They have one child, an adopted daughter. He has a fine 200 acre farm, well stocked, having some very fine Norman horses. Mr. Wells is also specially engaged in the manufacture of butter, having a fine building, with all modern improvements, for the business. Mr. Wells started with about \$600 when he located in Illinois, but he has grown to be one of Lee county's best farmers. Mrs. Wells had a brother killed by the Cheyenne Indians in Chase county, Nebraska, about October 7, 1878.

M. L. BARNETT, book-keeper and cashier for W. Steward & Co., Steward, was born in Herkimer county, New York, April 2, 1814, where his youth till eleven was spent. His education to a limited extent was received in Brockport, New York. In 1825 he removed to western New York, remaining till 1836 in a commercial office. He then went to Cleveland, Ohio, where he was also employed in a commercial office till 1839, and then removed to Circleville and engaged in the grocery business till 1843. In 1844 he removed to Piqua and commenced in the grain, provision, and transportation business, continuing till 1870. In 1871 he came to Illinois, locating at Steward, Alto township, there being but one family here at that time. He was married January 4, 1836, to Sarah E. Crocker, who died October 30, 1868. He has three sons and three daughters. His family is largely

above the average in intelligence and worth. His children are: Helen A., now Mrs. William C. McClure, of East Saginaw, Michigan; Mary Kate, housekeeper for father; Mattie L., now Mrs. H. T. Chappel, of Zilwaukee, Michigan; Charles C., auditor of Miami county, Ohio; Sam O. and Frank P. at home. He is one of the staunch men of honor, holding several trusts for different parties, and is a self-made man.

OLE I. SELGELID, boot and shoe business, Steward, was born January 2, 1849, in Norway. His parents are still living. He received common school advantages in Norway, where his youth was spent till sixteen at home on farm. He then learned the boot and shoe makers' trade and was thus employed in his native country till 1875, when he emigrated to America, landing in the city of New York and coming directly to Creston, Ogle county. Soon after he came to Alto and worked for three years on a farm. He then located at Steward and engaged in the boot and shoe business, which he has since continued. He is a member of the Evangelical Lutheran church and in politics a republican. He was married in 1879 to Carrie Sandvek. They have one child, Ed. Christopher.

V. A. BILLION, hardware and agricultural implements, Steward, was born in Onondaga county, New York, June 6, 1858. His father died in 1860, and his mother March 14, 1881. His youth till ten years of age was spent in his native town. His education was received principally in Illinois. In 1868 he moved to Rochelle, Ogle county, Illinois, with his mother, where they lived nearly eight years, and then moved to Steward, Alto township. He was married September 29, 1879, to Carrie E. Chambers. They have one child, Oved. He keeps a full line of goods; is carrying on a lively trade, and shows the usual energy manifested by Steward's merchants. Mrs. Billion's mother was burned out of house and home about eight years since, at Rochelle, losing all their personal effects.

JOHN SEVERSON, farmer, Lee, was born May 17, 1836, in Norway. His parents are both living, at an advanced age. Mr. Severson spent his young days, till twenty-one, at home on the farm. He had the advantage of the common school in Norway. June 20, 1857, he landed in America at Quebec, Canada, and came directly to Illinois, locating in Kendall county, where he remained about twelve years, working a farm on shares. He then moved to Alto, Lee county, and bought a farm of his own. He now has 320 acres under good cultivation. He has held local town offices; is a member of the Evangelical Lutheran church, and in politics a republican. He was married November 24, 1862, to Martha Newton. They have eight children living.

JAMES J. PATTERSON, farmer, Rochelle, was born in Ireland May

20, 1840, and came with his father and mother to this country about six years later, landing at the city of New York, and locating soon after at Albany, where they remained three or four years. They then came west and settled in McHenry county, Illinois, and commenced farming. Mr. Patterson remained at home till about fifteen years of age and then came to Ogle county and worked out on a farm till 1861. He then rented a farm and worked it till fall, when he enlisted in Co. H, 46th Ill. Vol., Inf. and reënlisted in January 1863, as a veteran, and remained till February 1866, when he was mustered out of service. He had limited common school advantages in Illinois. His parents are both living. He is a Baptist in religion and a republican in politics. He was married in February 1863, to Eunice Carpenter, and they have six children. He has now a 190 acre farm.

W. E. HEMENWAY, farmer, Steward, was born in Will county, Illinois, January 3, 1845. His mother is still living. His youth, till sixteen, was spent at home on the farm. In 1848 he moved from Will to De Kalb county. In 1861 he enlisted in Co. F, 27th Ill. Inf., serving three years, and was honorably discharged in November 1864. During 1866, 1867 and 1868 he was lumbering in Wisconsin and Michigan. He is a member of Sunbeam Lodge, A.F. and A.M., of Plano, Kendall county. In politics he is independent. In 1869 he was married to Cynthia Dewey, who died September 1876. He was married again in December 1878, to Elsie J. Cox. He has three children, two by first and one by second marriage. Mr. Hemenway is working 160 acres on shares, and is a breeder of Hereford bulls and Berkshire hogs. His farm is under good cultivation.

A. H. TODD, farmer, Creston, was born in Stamford, Connecticut, August 1827. He had common and select school advantages in Connecticut, where his youth and early manhood, till twenty-five years of age, was spent. At that time he came west and located at Sandusky, Ohio, being employed on the Mad River railroad as civil engineer, to Tiffin, Ohio, remaining about one year. The cholera raged so badly that all parties scattered, Mr. Todd returning east to Connecticut. About 1860 Mr. Todd came west again, locating at Dement (now Creston), and bought a farm, as now located, in Alto. In religion he is an Episcopalian, and in politics a republican. Mr. Todd is an own cousin to the late Com. Foote. His father was a distinguished Episcopal clergyman at Stamford for forty years.

MERRITT MILLER, farmer, Steward, was born in Luzerne county, Pennsylvania, October 4, 1842. His youth, till fifteen, was spent in that state in a mill with his father. He was educated partly in Pennsylvania and partly in Illinois, and removed west in 1857, locating in Willow creek, and commenced farming. In the fall of 1865 he re-

moved to Alto township, as now located. He has taught school several terms during the winter since coming to Illinois. August 24, 1862, he enlisted in Co. K, 75th Ill. Vol. Inf., and was mustered out June 24, 1865. He has held several local town offices, is a chapter Mason, and a republican in politics. He was married October 11, 1867, to Carrie Norton. He has 320 acres of land well stocked and under good cultivation.

MORRIS COOK, farmer, Steward, came to Illinois in 1856, locating first at Plano, Kendall county, where he remained ten years, and then removed to Alto, Lee county. He was born in Monmouth county, New Jersey. He received his education in New Jersey, and his youth was spent at home on the farm. Mr. Cook married, May 16, 1844, Elizabeth Cooper. They have eight children living. His family are above the average and among the progressive. Mary (Mrs. C. Van Noat) lives at Mason City, Iowa; Cassie (Mrs. Owen Kenney) at Scranton, Iowa; James and John are also at Scranton; Jane (Mrs. Barton Neer) at Alto, and George F. at Alto; Libbie, and Morris, jr., are at home. He has a splendid farm of 320 acres, stocked and under good cultivation. Mr. Cook is of a retiring nature, but highly esteemed among his neighbors and townsmen.

HENRY SOUTHARD, farmer, Steward, Lee county, was born in Green county, New York, April 4, 1825. He was educated to a limited extent in VanBuren county, Michigan, where his youth and young manhood, till twenty-one years of age, was spent engaged at farming. He removed in 1835, when about ten years old, to Cayuga county, New York, living there three years. In 1846 he came to Big Rock, Kane county, Illinois, and engaged at farming. In 1849 he caught the gold fever, and in April, 1852, went to California, remaining about four years, and returned in September 1856. Until 1859 he lived at Big Rock, Kane county, when he removed to Alto township. He is a Chapter Mason, and a democrat in politics. He was married February 24, 1850, to Esther S. Reed. They have three sons and two daughters. He has 420 acres of land, all under good cultivation and well stocked, and is among the leading farmers of this section.

CHARLES B. DAVIS, farmer, Steward, was born in Lewis county, New York, March 29, 1844. His parents are living in Lewis county, New York. He received common school advantages in his native county. His youth was spent at home on a farm. He came to Illinois in 1869, and located at Plano, Kendall county, where he remained five years on a farm, and then removed to Alto. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church and is a republican. He was married March 24, 1864, to Mary A. Dewey, and they have two children living: Cynthia A. and Edna M. Mr. Davis is managing a 440 acre farm, the property of



Milo C. Dewey. He is largely engaged in butter-making and milks forty cows. Their butter, through the skill of Mrs. Davis, brings always the highest market price. Mr. Davis is one of the pushing young farmers of Lee county.

W. T. PRESTON, general merchant Steward, was born in Kendall county, Illinois, near Newark, December 6, 1839. His youth and young manhood, till twenty-one, was spent there on a farm. He received district school advantages only in his native county. His venerable and worthy mother is yet living on the old homestead. In March, 1869, Mr. Preston removed to Reynolds township, Lee county, living there on farm till spring of 1876, when he moved to Steward, Alto township, and engaged in the general goods business. April 24, 1861, he enlisted in Co. K, 20th Ill. Vol. Inf., going at once to the front. January 4, 1864, he reenlisted as a veteran and marched with Sherman from Atlanta to the sea, and was mustered out July 24, 1865. He is a member of the I.O.O.F. and a republican in politics. October 3, 1866, he was married to Corilla A. Coleman, widow William Coleman. Mrs. Preston has three children by first marriage. Mr. Preston carries a full line of general merchandise and also owns two residences and lots, is doing a prosperous business, and is among the leading business men of Steward.

HENRY W. DUNNING, farmer, Creston, was born in Orange county, New York, February 23, 1828. He had the advantages of a common school, principally in his native state, where his youth till sixteen was spent on a farm; moved to Tompkins county, New York. In 1843 he came west and located at Rockford, Illinois, and farmed for about five years, and then engaged in milling at New Milford, near Rockford, for two years. In 1861 he removed to Lee county, locating in Alto township. He is a Master Mason and also belongs to the I.O.O.F. In politics he is a greenbacker. He was married in March 1856, to Emma A. Morse, who died in February 1866. He was again married, July 4, 1868, to Mary Millenger, from whom he was divorced in October 1876. In February, 1880, he was married to Louisa Bennett. He has two children. He has a 220 acre farm under good cultivation, and other property in Creston, Ogle county. Mr. Dunning is now permanently located at Creston. His son, Irving H., manages and lives on the farm in Alto. Hattie M. (Mrs. B. Rice) now resides at Ellsworth, Kansas.

CAROLINE HILL, farmer, Creston, widow of Peter Hill, was born in Norway, August 31, 1826. She had limited common school advantages in Norway, where her youth was spent. She emigrated to America in 1849, landing in the city of New York and coming directly west to a Norwegian settlement on Fox river, La Salle county. In the spring of



ISAAC THOMPSON



1850 they went to Leland and bought eighty acres of land, remaining fifteen years. They then removed to Alto, Lee county, in 1865. She is a member of the Evangelical Lutheran church. She was married to Peter Hill in 1848. Mr. Hill died October 31, 1875, aged fifty-five years, leaving Mrs. Hill with ten children, three of whom are now married, and the other seven are at home. Mr. Hill was an invalid for many years, and the management of the farm largely depended on Mrs. Hill. The children are: Peter P., of Lee station; Ole, of Capron; Julia Ann (Mrs. Thorson), of Alto; Caroline, Bertha M., Charles, Andrew O., Benjamin, William P. and Nels at home.

CLANG OSMUNDSON, farmer, Creston, was born in Norway, February 17, 1834. He was educated in his native country, where his younger days were spent at home on a farm. He came to America in 1854, landing at Quebec, Canada, in June, and going directly to La Salle county, Illinois, where he remained about six years. He then removed to Fillmore county, Minnesota, staying about five years, and improving a farm. He then sold out, and in the spring of 1865 returned to Lee county, and located in Alto township. He has held several local town offices, and is a republican politically. He belongs to the Evangelical Lutheran church. On July 1, 1858, he was married to Carrie O. Hill, who died March 29, 1878. He has six children, and owns a good farm of 280 acres, well cultivated and stocked.

WILLIAM S. HERRICK, farmer and physician, Steward, was born in West Randolph, Orange county, Vermont, May 3, 1838. His parents are both dead. He received common school and academic advantages in West Randolph, Vermont, also attended the University of Vermont, at Burlington, through the sophomore year. Then going to Dartmouth College, Hanover, New Hampshire, he graduated in 1860 with the degree of A.B. He also graduated from Rush Medical College, Chicago, in February 1866. He left Vermont in August 1860, going to Natchez, Mississippi, where he stopped a short time and then went to New Orleans, Louisiana, where he staid till December 1860, and returned north to Mendota, La Salle county, Illinois. In June, 1861, he commenced reading and the study of medicine with Dr. E. P. Cook, which he continued till July 1862, and then entered the quartermaster's department, under Gen. Buell, but returned to Chicago in October of the same year, and in December, 1862, entered the navy, enlisting as an able-bodied seaman. At Cairo, Illinois, he was promoted to hospital steward, serving as such and assistant surgeon till February 1865, when he was honorably discharged. Returning to Vermont he attended medical lectures at the University of Vermont, as before stated, a season of about four months. He then went to Chicago and attended Rush Medical College. After graduating he went to



Troy Grove, La Salle county, Illinois, and practiced for two years, and at Meriden, same county, one year. In the spring of 1869 he removed to Willow creek, Lee county, and in 1871 to Alto township, his present home, where he has been farming and practicing since. He is a Master Mason and in politics a republican. He was married in September 1870, to Lucy Ann Reams, widow of Charles Reams. She is the daughter of the late Robert Thompson. They have three daughters, Daisy E., Delia A. and Lacy A., and two sons, William Y. and ———. He has an 80 acre farm, stocked and under cultivation.

HARMON VAN PATTEN, farmer, Steward, was born at Glenville, Schenectady county, New York, July 14, 1836. He received a good education in his native town and at Mount Morris Rock River Seminary, Illinois. His youth and early manhood, till twenty-two, was nearly all spent at Glenville on the farm. Coming west, he lived for about nine months in Detroit, Michigan, and then came to this county and located in Willow creek, being employed in a nursery for one year. In March, 1861, he located in Alto township, where he has since remained engaged in agricultural pursuits. He has held several town offices; is a Master Mason, a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and in politics is a republican. He was married March 17, 1861, to Hannah Nettleton, who died January 6, 1875. He was again married September 4, 1878, to Nettie Fuller. They have five children. He has a farm of 280 acres.

WILLIAM F. CARPENTER, farmer, Steward, was born in Elmira, Chemung county, New York, March 25, 1838. His education was received partly in New York and partly in Illinois. Until about eighteen his youth was spent at Elmira on a farm. In March, 1856, he moved to Illinois, landing at Rochelle, where he remained one year and then came to Alto in 1857. He has been school director, is a member of the Baptist church, and is a republican in politics. In 1864 he was married to Gertrude Foster, who died January 17, 1872. He has a fine farm of 240 acres, under high cultivation. Mr. Carpenter has seen some trying seasons since locating here, having lost his wife and two children by death. He has paid in an early day nearly as much for seed wheat as the crop brought, on account of failure of crops. Mr. Carpenter had, when starting, \$300, and after hard work for a year, had his creditors pressed him, he would have been \$500 in debt, but keeping on in his usual determined way, is now one of the substantial farmers of Alto township. In 1868, Mrs. Carpenter's health failing, they started for Minnesota in the hope of regaining it, but in the spring of 1869 they returned, Mrs. Carpenter not being benefited. In the fall of 1869 they went to California, remaining eighteen months, and returning in 1871 to their farm, where Mrs. Carpenter lingered

till 1872, when she died. Mr. Carpenter, with Miss Carrie Whitcomb (now Mrs. George Addy, of Wisconsin), were the first to organize a Sunday-school in this township in the year 1858.

GILBERT F. HENNING, farmer, Steward, was born at Plano, Kendall county, Illinois, May 5, 1847. His mother is still living, but his father died June 1881. Mr. Henning's father was one of the oldest settlers in Illinois, coming west in 1836. Mr. Henning received a common school education, mostly at Plano, where his youth and manhood, till the age of twenty-four, was spent. In 1871 he moved to Alto. In politics he is a republican. He was married in October 1875, to Angie S. Lawton. They have one child, Burt. Mr. Henning has a 275 acre farm, and also owns an undivided half of 270 acres in Alto township, and 160 acres in Reynolds township. He is also half interest holder in the firm of Wesley Steward & Co., in the lumber and coal business. He also buys and ships grain and stock. He is an enterprising young business man, and stands well among his townsmen.

H. A. ROBINSON, postmaster and general store, Steward, was born in Onondaga county, New York, in 1841. His parents are both living. He received a common school education, partly in New York and partly in Illinois. Till fourteen his youth was spent in New York on a farm. In 1866 he removed to Illinois, locating at Paw Paw Grove, and engaged in the cultivation of hops, and also at the carpenter trade. One year was also spent in Bureau county. In 1871 he removed to Steward, Alto township, building the first store in the town, and commenced merchandising. He has held the office of town clerk four years, is a Master Mason, and in politics a republican. He was married February 1879, to Ceriah F. Morris. They have one child, Lester. Mr. Robinson has an eighty acre farm in Reynolds township, and carries a full line of general merchandise.

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## REYNOLDS TOWNSHIP.

Not more than one or two sections of this township but that is under partial cultivation. A portion of what is known as Brush Grove is the only natural grove in Reynolds township. It is located on the north border line in the northwest corner. Reynolds township was first settled at this point. It is in surface a ridge of undulating or slightly rolling of about one half of the township, running through it from east to west. The north and south of this ridge of about the other half of township is flat, and in some parts swampy and wet. The soil is a rich black loam. It has a good many miles of willow and maple hedge, making it appear to the unaccustomed visitor as covered with groves. There are quite a number of small artificial groves of maple, willow

and walnut planted by its residents. There is to all appearance an inexhaustible stone quarry, located one mile from the east line and nearly in the middle of the township known as stone ridge. In an early day parties came for miles around and quarried stone free. It has had several owners, among them R. M. Peile. It is now owned by P. Culkin. The Illinois Central Railroad Company once sent an engineer corps to this place to test the strength, but found the stone at that time unfit for abutments.

The peculiar beauty and attractiveness of this township is the good class of outbuildings, fences, extra good water and roads, there being a strong feeling toward bringing this portion of Lee county up to the highest possible state of cultivation and value. Its inhabitants are above the average in culture and intelligence. It is claimed as an actual fact that although the youngest in the county as to settlement it is leading in almost every direction. It is only within a few years that the wild ducks and geese were so troublesome in these parts that dogs and boys were employed to save crops from their destruction, and even now they call in such numbers as to cover acres.

The early settlers were Sewell Reynolds, now living near Rochelle. Thomas Manier, living now in Wisconsin. Jonathan Whitehead moved to Iowa, and since dead. John Herrington also went to Iowa, and is now dead. Dudley C. Whitehead was an early settler, who moved to Iowa and has since died. Daniel Brink, jr., now living at Rochelle, was an early settler, as was Charles Gooch, now living on Sec. 17. The latter is one of the largest stock operators and farmers in this township.

There are eight school districts in the township, one of these being a union district, part of which is in Ogle county. The township has a school fund of nearly \$9,000 with seven school-houses, all nearly new, costing about \$5,000. The school trustees at present are J. C. Piper, George Baley, and Thomas Patterson.

Sewell Reynolds was the first settler in Reynolds township, locating in what is known as Brush Grove. Simeon Reynolds, now living six miles north of Rochelle, was the first child born in same. Nelson Morgan was the first death.

#### ORGANIZATION.

The electors of the township met April 5, 1859, at the school-house in district No. 1, and organized by choosing Peter Mills moderator, and R. M. Piele clerk. They then proceeded to elect the following officers by ballot: for supervisor, Thomas Minier; town clerk, John C. Piper; assessor, Thomas Minier; collector, Dudley C. Whitehead; overseer of poor, Daniel Brink, jr.; commissioners of highways, E. F. Gatten, Job Whitehead and David Douthett; constables, Dudley

C. Whitehead and John C. Piper; justices of the peace, Peter Mills and Robert M. Piele. They then appointed E. F. Gatten, John Herrington and John C. Piper as a committee to divide the town into road districts. The present town officers are supervisor, E. Wiener; town clerk, Thomas Paterson; assessor, J. C. Piper; collector, Jacob Vauple; commissioners of highways, George Boley, Francis O'Rorke and L. D. Wilcox; constables, Eugene Horton and Charles Vauple; justices of the peace, R. M. Piele and Charles Ashenbrenner.

The cabin, 12×16, six feet high, used and built as a residence by Horace Stearns, where the few first residents met to organize Reynolds township and select its first officers, still stands near its original location. It is now used as a pig-pen, and has been used as a corn-crib. The first meeting was small, and consisted in part of J. C. Piper, R. M. Piele, C. N. Reynolds, Simeon Reynolds, Silas Shippee, W. M. Hawkins and others. The building is located on Sec. 10.

#### CHURCHES.

The Methodist Episcopal church of the Flats, located on the south line of Reynolds township and about four miles east of Bradford township, is a neat church building, 32×42, 16 feet high to eaves, and has a seating capacity for about 200. Previous to the building of this church a meeting was held in the fall of 1875 at the house of C. W. Ament, the following persons being present: F. F. Farmlow, C. W. Ament, C. F. VanPatten, John A. Edgar, Daniel C. Miller, B. F. Parker. The meeting was opened by prayer, and after this resolutions were offered and passed toward an organization. F. F. Farmlow was chosen chairman and C. W. Ament secretary; C. W. Ament was chosen clerk and treasurer, and he, with F. F. Farmlow, C. F. VanPatten, John A. Edgar, Daniel C. Miller and B. F. Parker were elected as a building committee. They immediately went to work and a building as above described was ready for use that fall. Soon after the building was occupied meetings were held and church officers were chosen and elected, consisting of A. N. Dow, treasurer, C. F. VanPatten, secretary, and John A. Edgar, C. W. Ament, A. N. Dow, C. F. VanPatten, B. F. Parker, trustees. Since its organization the church has been in a healthy and prosperous condition. It is now essentially free from debt. It has a Sabbath-school every Sunday, averaging forty members. The present officers are C. F. VanPatten, treasurer and clerk, John A. Edgar, Chester Fosgate, B. F. Parker, C. F. VanPatten, trustees. R. W. Records is its present pastor.

The Emanuel Church, of the Evangelical association (German), is beautifully situated in Reynolds township, one mile east of Bradford town line and four miles south of the Ogle county line. At a meeting



of fifteen members held in the school-house in district No. 4, January 5, 1872, steps were taken toward building a church edifice. C. Gagstetter was chosen chairman and Ernst Wiener secretary. A committee was then appointed to canvass and see whether funds could be raised to build the church and report. The committee met at a subsequent meeting held at the same place, January 20, 1872, and reported favorably. They then appointed a building committee, as follows: John Kersten, George Sandrock, George Boley, Martin Wagner and Ernst Wiener. At the same meeting trustees were elected, as follows: Ernst Wiener, George Kersten, John Neuman, George Sandrock and George Boley: Ernst Wiener was chosen treasurer, John Kersten president, and George Boley secretary of building committee. The building is 34×50, 18 feet high to eaves, having a steeple with bell about 18 feet in height. The seating capacity is about 400. The cost of building and furnishing was about \$4,000. It is now (1881) being renovated, the interior all being replaced by wood ceiling, at a cost of about \$900. It will then be one of the neatest country churches in Lee county. Its present pastor is A. Goetschel: the trustees are E. Wiener, George Boley, John Greise, George Kersten and Martin Wagner. The Sunday-school averages about 150. The church was dedicated October 13, 1872, clear of debt, by raising \$1,100.82. The church and Sabbath-school are in a very flourishing condition.

#### BIOGRAPHICAL.

ROBERT M. PEILE, farmer, Steward, was born in County Kilkenny, Ireland, March 7, 1832. His parents died from cholera in 1848. He was liberally educated in County Waterford. His youth, till nineteen years of age, was spent at school. November 1, 1850, he removed to this country, landing at Boston, Massachusetts. He soon came to Illinois, locating at Mendota, and taught school near there for two years. He then removed to Reynolds township (then called Brooklyn), and was among the first to introduce the herding of cattle in this county. He commenced herding 900, and has had 2,700 under his care at one time. While herding in June, 1861, the tornado of that year struck this section, devastating the country and killing many cattle and other stock. He has held nearly all important offices in the township, has bought and sold several thousand acres of land, improving a part of the same and bringing it up to a high state of cultivation. He has now a fine farm of 320 acres. Mr. Peile assisted largely in recruiting men during the late civil war. He was married May 31, 1853, to Mary Landers, who died February 14, 1872. He married again, June 17, 1874, Lydia J. Banning. He has six children, four by first and two by second marriage. Mr. Peile is a nephew of the late Robert

Moore Peile, M.D., F.R.C.S., and inspector-general of hospitals to the forces in Ireland, senior surgeon to the Richmond hospital and house of industry, and consulting surgeon to Dr. Stevens' hospital. This eminent man died February 4, 1858, aged ninety-three years. Mr. Peile is the oldest settler residing in this township. In June, 1880, his barn, 100×50, blew down during a tornado, also several trees. He has since rebuilt. He has now about 200 head of cattle and 100 sheep. Mr. Peile has one of the finest maple groves in Lee county, the plants for which were brought from Des Moines, Iowa, about fifteen years ago. His farm has fine hedge fences of osage and willow. He is one of the best known men in Reynolds, if not in Lee county. The names of Mr. Peile's children are: Maria M., Mrs. A. V. Sanborn, of Steward; Ellen R., Mrs. William B. Sutliff, of Beatrice, Nebraska; Kittie A., John J., Minnie E. and Lydia J.

MARTHA E. SANDROCK, farmer, Ashton, was born in Hesse-Cassel, Germany, August 16, 1835, and is widow of George Sandrock. She was educated in Germany, going to school from the age of six to fourteen years. In 1848 her father with family (except herself, then living with grandparents,) emigrated to America. After her school days Mrs. Sandrock went out to work till nearly twenty-two years of age. She then emigrated, landing at the city of New York in 1857, coming directly west and locating in Bradford township. She removed to Reynolds on October 4, 1867. She belongs to the Evangelical Association. She was married to Mr. Sandrock June 6, 1857. Her maiden name was Thiele. She has five children living. Mr. Sandrock died suddenly from lung fever, March 7, 1872, being sick only ten days. Since then Mrs. Sandrock and children have managed the farm, with a little hired help during harvest. She has had much sickness in the family since her husband's death, and has had a struggle to meet payments, there being \$5,400 due at Mr. Sandrock's death, but is now in a fair way to have all clear in two years. She has a 240 acre farm well under cultivation and fairly stocked. The children are George, Charles, Christina, Annie C. and William.

MARTIN WAGNER, farmer, Ashton, was born in Hesse-Cassel, Germany, June 18, 1836. His parents are both dead. He had the usual school advantages from six to fourteen years of age in Germany. His youth till eighteen was spent in his native country. He was a tailor for three years. He emigrated to America in 1854, landing in the city of New York and coming directly west he located at Lee Center. Remaining there two years he engaged at his trade as tailor, and then he went to Chinatown and engaged at farming, working out five years and renting two years. He then moved to Reynolds township. He has held several local town offices and is a member of the Evangelical

association. He is a republican in politics. Mr. Wagner was married in March 1863, to Martha Henert. They have six children. He has a 240 acre farm under good cultivation.

JOHN TROTTER, farmer, Flag Station, Ogle county, was born in Scotland, January 3, 1835. His parents died while crossing the ocean emigrating to America, nearly 300 out of 400 passengers dying from ship fever on the passage. Mr. Trotter had a partial education in Scotland, but finished at Newburg Seminary, Vermont. His youth till thirteen was spent in Scotland at school. In the year 1848 he emigrated to America, landing at Quebec, Canada, June 4; remained till November. His father being a high Mason and having died on the way over with his wife and three children, he was taken in charge by Masons of Quebec, and correspondence commenced with friends in Scotland, who were thus found living in Orange county, Vermont. These came and took charge of the children. Mr. Trotter remained in Vermont about three years, working summers and attending school winters. He then went to Massachusetts, acting as foreman of hands engaged in cutting timber, and remained about one year. He then returned to Vermont and attended the Newbury Seminary till 1855, going in November of the same year to Rockton, Illinois. Here he worked summers and taught winters till the spring of 1860. In February of that year he removed to Reynolds township and farmed till the fall of 1862, when he enlisted in Co. I, 14th Ill. Cav., remaining till the close of the war. He has since been teaching, buying grain and farming. He was town assessor for five years; was census enumerator in 1880, and is a republican in politics. He was married July 6, 1873, to Sarah Patterson. They have three children. The house now occupied by Mr. Trotter is the first one built in Reynolds township by C. N. Reynolds.

GEORGE BOLEY, farmer, Ashton. Mr. Boley was born in Germany, April 14, 1834. He was in school from six to fourteen in Germany, and spent his youth till sixteen at home. After this for about six years he worked out among farmers. When nearly twenty-three years of age he emigrated to America, landing in New York city in May 1857; came directly west and located at Franklin Grove. Here he worked out among farmers for about eighteen months, and then rented land in Lee Center for three years. He removed to Bradford township, living three years, and then located in Reynolds. He has held local town offices for over sixteen years. Mr. Boley is a member of the Evangelical association, and has always been a republican. He was married in October 1854, to Catharine Bawer. They have three sons, George W., William, and Jacob, and three daughters, Martha E., Catharine, and Mary. He has a 160 acre farm well cultivated and stocked.



CHAS. GOOCH, farmer, Ashton, was born in the county of Suffolk, England, September 1, 1835, but removed with his parents to Somersetshire when two years old. Here he remained till 1855, and then emigrated to America, landing in the city of New York June 12, 1855. He came directly to Ogle county, Illinois, via Rockford, and commenced work for Henry Mix at spile-driving on Rock river. There being a disagreement as to wages, Mr. Gooch engaged a ferry, continuing about six weeks, and then went to Beloit, Wisconsin, to see a brother whom he had not seen for five years. His brother was foreman in a stone quarry and he went to work for four weeks with him. Then both went about four miles east of Beloit and worked about twelve months on the Racine & Mississippi railroad. In the winter of 1856 he went to Rockton and was engaged that winter in feeding stock, going in April to Ashton and working for William Hodges in a stone quarry for about three years until Mr. Hodges died. He then commenced farming, renting land of Col. John Dement in the spring of 1861 at Washington Grove, remaining there four years. He then rented a farm of Col. Dement in Reynolds township for four years, and then he bought it and lived there four years. He then bought the next adjoining land, his present home and farm, of M. J. Braiden. Mr. Gooch is now owner of one of the best sections in Reynolds township. His mother is still living, is ninety-one years old, and hale and hearty. He has been school director for seventeen years; is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and a republican. He was married April 23, 1855, to Charlotta Gardner. They have eight children. When Mr. Gooch landed in Chicago in 1855 he had but \$2 as a starter.

MARGARET VAUPEL, widow of John Vaupel, farmer, Steward, was born in Baden, Germany, March 25, 1833. She went to school till thirteen years of age, then for nine years was employed as house servant in different homes, remaining from one to three years in a place. She emigrated and arrived in the city of New York July 1855, going directly to Mendota. Here she remained a short time and then went to Amboy and remained one year employed in a hotel, going then to Binghamton, near Amboy, where she was employed in a hotel, where she married Mr. Vaupel, who was employed in a plow shop. After marriage Mrs. Vaupel took in washing, beside her household duties. They remained between two and three years, and a short time at Sublette, then removed to Bradford township and rented a small farm, remaining about five years. He then came to Reynolds and bought eighty acres near the Evangelical church, living there about five years. Here Mr. Vaupel died in 1868. Previous to his death he sold the eighty acres and bought 160 acres about four miles directly east in Reynolds at \$50 per acre. Mrs. Vaupel being left with seven small



children from three months to twelve years of age, and fearing payments could not be met, sold back eighty acres at \$40 per acre, leaving the eighty costing \$60 per acre. The first two years after her husband's death she kept hired help during the summer. After this, Mrs. Vaupel with the children struggled alone until all of the \$2,800 debt was paid. She then bought 160 acres more at an average of \$45 per acre. She has paid \$1,600 on one 80, and on the other \$800. Her second son is tax collector. They are members of the Evangelical association and are among the industrious and worthy farmers of this township.

JOHN GRIESE, farmer, Ashton, was born in Hainebach, Germany, April 15, 1831. His father and mother, both seventy-four years old, are living with Mr. Griese. He received the usual education given in Germany, and his youth and early manhood till thirty-three years old, except five years in the German army, were spent at home on the farm. He came to America in 1864, landing in New York city, and came to Reynolds township, Sec. 19, Lee county, the same year. He has been collector two years, school director two terms. Is a member of the German Evangelical association, and in politics is a republican. He was married April 1857, to Dora Lizzie Klunchmidt. They have four children. He has a 250 acre farm stocked and under good cultivation.

ERNST WIENER, farmer, Ashton, was born in Hesse-Cassel, Germany, March 24, 1834. He attended school in Germany from six to fourteen, and spent two years at Bremen painting. The rest of the time till 1858 he was at home on the farm. On his arrival in America he came to Lee Center, Lee county, Illinois, remaining about two years, and then came to Bradford township and afterward to Reynolds, in 1864. He has held the office of school trustee three years, town clerk six years, school treasurer four years, and supervisor two years. He is a leading member of the Evangelical association, and is a republican. He was married in 1860, to Elizabeth Huhnstock, and has a fine family of eight children (one married). Just in harvest time in 1878, about a month after finishing a new barn, it caught fire by some unknown cause and burned up with its contents, including several colts. It has since been rebuilt. He has a 200 acre farm, well stocked and under good cultivation. Mr. Wiener lives near the Evangelical church building in Reynolds township, and was mainly instrumental in its erection. He is one of the leading farmers in the township.

HENRY SPEEK, farmer, Ashton, was born in Wurtemberg, Germany, June 11, 1820. He attended school in Germany till fourteen years of age, after this he hired out and worked on a farm till he was twenty-six. He then emigrated to America, landing in the city of New York. Going at once to Buffalo, he hired out as a wood-chopper

at 37½ cents per cord, paying 25 cents per day for board, working one winter. In the spring he engaged in a shingle-mill at \$8 per month and board, remaining two or three years. He then engaged in a saw-mill and worked about three years. Then he removed to Illinois, locating in Bradford township, working one year for John Gatner. He then rented the farm, Mr. Gatner furnishing one pair of oxen the first year, and a pair of horses the next. He remained on this farm about ten years, having cleared \$600 and his team. He then bought his present home of 120 acres. May 11, 1854, he married Mena Kept. They are members of the Evangelical association. They have two children, Hannah and George, and have lost four by death. His farm is clear from debt, and is under good cultivation.

J. A. GRIESE, farmer, Ashton, was born in Hainebach, Germany, November 4, 1838, and attended school from six to fourteen, and then till eighteen helped his father on the farm. His parents are both living. In 1857 they came to America, landing in the city of Baltimore, Maryland, with \$80 capital. Coming directly west to Franklin Grove, he hired out as farm hand during the summer and hauled wood in the winter, going ten miles for his load and chopping the same himself. He continued in this work about five years, after which he rented eighty acres, working it for four years. While working the rented farm he first bought eighty and after forty acres and fenced the same and built himself a house. At the expiration of his rented farm in 1866 he bought more land, and moved on his farm where he is now living. He has held several local town offices, is a leading member of the Evangelical association, and is a republican. He was married February 28, 1863, to Anna Katy Kerst. They have seven children and a farm of 447 acres well under cultivation.

LYDIA A. HORTON, widow of Nelson J. Horton, farmer, Rochelle. Mrs. Horton was born September 29, 1832, in Otsego county, New York, and spent her youth till fourteen at school. About 1847 she moved with her parents to Bradford county, Pennsylvania. In 1851 she was married to Mr. Horton, and came west, locating in Ogle county, and remained till 1863, when they removed to the present home. In October, 1861, Mr. Horton enlisted in Co. H, 46th reg. Ill. Vols. (Capt. Stevens), and served through the war, being honorably discharged as a veteran. He went from Fort Henry to Mobile, the last struggle of the war. On his return he was found to be broken in health. Everything was done to raise him, but he continued an invalid. In January, 1877, Mr. and Mrs. Horton, after selling all their personal effects, rented their farm and went to Wisconsin, hoping to regain his health. He lingered till June 19, 1878, on their way toward home. He died from hemorrhage of the lungs on the cars.

## CHINA TOWNSHIP.

The first settlements in China township were made at or near the head of what is now known as Franklin Grove. In June, 1835, Cyrus Chamberlain, Lockwood Minor and Col. Nathan Whitney arrived in Dixon. These parties were formerly near neighbors in Genesee county, New York. Whitney, a few years before this, had moved into Ohio. Chamberlain located a claim near Grand Detour in what is now Nachusa township, and Minor stopped with him. Mr. Whitney came along the north side of the grove to near the present site of Franklin, but not finding running water he made no claim, nor did he see or hear of any others who had claimed in this vicinity. He returned to Ohio in July, and in the fall came back to Rocky Falls, Whitesides county, where he spent considerable time looking for a good location. He wintered in Joliet, and in the spring of 1836 he again visited this vicinity, this time claiming a large piece of prairie three-quarters of a mile square, the farm now owned by his son, A. R. Whitney; he also bought a timber claim of twenty-eight acres. Mr. Whitney hired about ten acres of prairie broke in August. After arranging with Lockwood Minor for the breaking of twenty acres the following June, he again went back to Ohio, where he spent the winter of 1836-7. In the meantime a few families had settled at the head of the grove. The first who made claims there were James Holly and Charles Harrison. This was in 1835. They soon sold out to Adam Vroman and went to Iowa. The same year David Holly with his family settled on the S.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 35, T. 22, China. His house was built where Jacob Miller lives, and Cummins Noe settled on the Creek south of the grove about one and a quarter miles west of the railroad depot at Franklin Grove, and about eighty rods north and a little west of Henry Hausen's house. Early in 1836 Edward Morgan, from Indiana, settled farther up in the grove near the middle of the S.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of Sec. 27, T. 22, China. Late in August or early in September, 1836, Nathaniel C. Yale and his family, of New York, came here and moved into a log house which stood nearly opposite the "Dunkard" church, on what is now David Lahman's premises. This house was built by James Holly. Here they lived till the spring of 1839, when they moved to the south side of the grove. When the Yales came there were three families, numbering sixteen souls, living at the grove: Cummins Noe, his wife and two children; David Holly and wife, and father, Jesse Holly, two children, and Samuel Ayerhart, who lived with them; Edward Morgan and wife, his three children, and Nicholas Kinman, a nephew of Morgan. In the spring of 1836 Cyrus R. Minor, father of Lockwood Minor,



came to the new settlement, and from a man named Brown bought a claim to eighty acres of timber and "all the prairie he could see." In the following December Minor came west with his family. During this month they lived with Morgan. January 1, 1837, the family moved into their new house, which was built on the corner east of the Hughes' Hotel, where Gabriel Miller lives. This primitive dwelling had neither floor nor windows, and for a door a blanket was used. Rails were laid down upon which to place the bedding.

In March of 1837 Jeremiah Whipple came with his family in wagon from western New York. Otis Timothy, then a young man, drove his team from Buffalo, leaving there the latter part of January. Whipple was out here in 1836 with a buggy, and at that time made arrangements with Jesse Holly for the construction of a saw-mill, for which he (Whipple) brought machinery on his return in 1837. Joseph, a bachelor brother of Jeremiah Whipple, came out with him, and lived in the family for several years. They settled in the grove near the creek, near what is now known as "Whipple's cave." In July of this year Nathan Whitney returned to his claim accompanied by Jacob John. They went to work getting out timber for a house to be built on Whitney's claim. This is said to have been the first frame-house between Chicago and the Mississippi river; it was framed and partly inclosed in the fall of 1837, and completed the following spring. It was put up at a great cost of labor and money (for those times). All the lumber not made by hand was purchased in Chicago at nearly \$200 per thousand. The family of Mr. Whitney arrived from Ohio in February of 1838, and lived in the "Noe house" (log) on the south side of the grove till the new house was completed; this is now used by A. R. Whitney for a vinegar house. Jacob John, who had a family, settled where Joshua Lohman now lives.

In 1848 Harrison and W. Henry Hausen came from Maine, also Philip Stahl. The three purchased a large claim from Erastus De Wolf, which they paid for chiefly in labor. Most of it is land now owned by the Hausens, who live west of the village of Franklin Grove. It was first claimed by Noe, by whom it was sold to Bowman, of whom it was bought by De Wolf, who, after disposing of it, settled farther south on the Lee Center and Dixon road.

Dr. Gardner was also an early settler in that vicinity, having settled where Wagner lives, in Nachusa, in 1838.

In 1839 Thomas Brown came here with DeWolf, the latter having been here before, and made a large claim, intended for a Rhode Island colony. Dr. Gardner was also connected with this projected enterprise, but the original plan was not carried out. In 1838 Amos Hussey, of Pennsylvania, with his wife and two children, came to the grove in a



wagon. He lived in the "Noe house," on the south side of the grove, during the winter, 1838-9, and then moved to near where he is now living, a few rods north of the corporation of Franklin Grove, and built there soon after. The same year Silas P. Tolman located a few rods east of where the Methodist Episcopal church stands, and bought from A. Vroman a claim to half a section. About this time James Holly returned from Iowa, and, together with Hussey, bought from Vroman a large tract, for which they paid \$1,400. In 1839 F. DeWolf claimed the E.  $\frac{1}{2}$  Sec. 24, T. 21, China, the south half of which he entered. E. C. Thomas, who settled in the grove, a family of Coopers, Michael Brewen, or "Little Mike," as he was called, and John Durfee, were early settlers. The Coopers at first lived near the mill-dam, in Nachusa township, on land now owned by Samuel Lahman. Mike made a claim east of the grove, and Durfee settled south of Whitney, where Gilbert lives. In 1843 W. C. Robinson claimed his farm in Sec. 10, T. 21, on the south side of the Dixon and Lee Center road, and built on the same. In this year C. Lahman and family came, in company with the Emmerts, all of Pennsylvania. Lahman settled on the farm now owned by his son David, a little north of A. Hussey, having bought the property from J. Holly, who then left the settlement. Then only the Hollys, Morgan and Ayerhart lived on the north side of the grove. Two or three years after his arrival Emmert built a grist-mill on the creek, which in a few years was bought by the Lahmans, who ran it many years. In 1844 the Riddelsbargers came, and settled on the north side of the grove. From this time till 1854 the settlement grew slowly, but when the railroad came through there was a marvelous change.

Most of the first settlers came from their eastern homes in wagons, sometimes drawn by four-horse teams. Their life at that period was simple and earnest. The spot they had chosen for their homes was one of the fairest portions of Illinois. None thought that the beautiful prairie spread out around them would ever all be settled. Franklin Grove, around which they built their cabins, was so named, it is said, after the youngest son of "Father Dixon."

The creek which flows through it into the Rock river affords much picturesque scenery. Along its banks, in places, the sandstone walls reach a height of fifty feet. The beauty of this stream is unsurpassed, if equaled, by anything in northern Illinois, excepting only a little of the Illinois river. "The different varieties of oak, hickory, walnut, elm, cherry, maple, and the soft woods except pines were found here in large trees by the early settlers. Much of the large timber has been cut off, and some of the ground is now tilled, but the area of the grove by the growth of young trees has been increased." For several years after the pioneers came deer were seen in the grove; there were also a

few wild cats. Prairie wolves and badgers were numerous. The bluffs along the creek contain much valuable building stone.

#### TRAGEDY.

The history of China records but one criminal murder, and this, too, in the pure, primitive days. In the fall of 1847, or early the following winter, Moody Thompson, a widower, had bought a small place on the bank of the creek, in the grove, about one and a half miles "west of town." During the winter Thompson lived with the family of whom he had purchased. In June this family left for St. Charles, Illinois. Thompson being alone, sent for his friend Olig Gamerson to come and stay with him. Accordingly on Wednesday evening the latter went, having come from Inlet that afternoon. On the following Saturday Jacob Wingert, while out hunting, had occasion to call at their dwelling. He found their dead bodies in bed, where they had been brutally murdered with their own axe. Their heads were split open, and they had apparently died without a struggle. Their chest was found broken open and rifled of its contents. Gold coin to the amount of \$60 or \$70 was found remaining in the chest. Wednesday evening Thompson had been to Mr. Riddelsbarger's to get a bag of corn. He was not seen alive after this; but one feed for his hogs seemed to have been taken out of the bag of corn. It is thought they were murdered on the night Gamerson came. This was only three days after the family left to go to St. Charles. They were Norwegians by birth, and had been known here for nearly a year. They were thought to be upright and peaceable. Considerable effort was made to find the criminal or criminals, but the perpetrator of the crime has never been found, and a veil of mystery hangs over the horrible deed.

#### SCHOOLS.

For several years the dwellers at the grove got along without a school-house of any kind. One of the settlers of 1836 says that Louisa Cooper taught a school near Whipple's, about 1839; and the next was taught by Lorenzo Whiting, in a little log cabin in Tolman's timber; the next in a little log house on the south side of the grove, by Harry Godger. One winter Nathan Whitmore taught a school in the house of T. L. Minor. He was hired by a club of boys in the neighborhood. Girls and small boys were excluded. John M. Crawford at quite an early day taught in the James Holly log house. In 1851 the log school-house was built a little east of where Amos Hussey is living. The settlers each hauled a certain number of logs. One of their number is reported to have said: "By G—d if there is going to be any quarreling about this, I will jerk my logs out."

## ORGANIZATION.

The town of China was organized under the state law April 2, 1850. It was previously called Fremont. Russel Lynn, an early settler in the south part of the township, whose native township in Maine was China, urged the adoption of that name. China originally included T. 21, and the S.  $\frac{1}{2}$  and Secs. 17 and 18 of T. 22 N., R. 10 E. of the 4th P. M. In 1870 the west half was set off as the town of Nachusa, leaving the present area of China nine by three miles. Town meetings were held at the house of H. S. Buckman till 1855, and subsequently, with two exceptions, for several years at the Hughes Hotel. At the first meeting Geo. R. Linn was elected supervisor, receiving thirty votes; Josiah Wheat, clerk, forty-five votes; Christian Lahman, assessor, thirty-nine votes; Moses Curtis, collector, twenty-two votes; overseer of the poor, B. Humnum; commissioners of highways, Jesse Hale, W. C. Robinson, Nathan Whitney; justice of the peace, Robt. B. Sprout; Moses S. Curtis and W. C. Robinson, constables. Forty-six was the highest number of votes cast for any one office. At this meeting the town was divided into ten highway districts; a fence law was passed; decided measures were adopted to prevent stock from running at large. At the next annual meeting seventy-seven was the highest vote cast for any office. At a special meeting held at the Hughes Hotel, March 1865, seventy-six votes were cast for raising a bounty, and three votes were cast against the same. The census of 1880 shows for China, exclusive of the village of Franklin Grove, a population of 681 souls. There are six school districts in the township. China is strongly republican in politics, having given, in the election of 1880, 196 votes for Garfield, 97 for Hancock, and but 5 for the Iowa candidate. Of 262 votes polled at a general election in 1870, 199 were republican. There were then about 450 legal voters in the township. In 1873 China had 90 per cent less delinquent tax than any other township in the county of Lee. Besides her fine farms, large and costly barns, elegant houses, China has for several years been noted for blooded stock, including cattle, sheep, swine, and less notably, horses. In 1854 or 1855 C. Lahman brought some high-grade short-horns from southern Illinois. Henry Hausen commenced improving his cattle soon after with good results. In 1867 Henry Hausen and Samuel Dysart brought the first thoroughbred cattle here from central Illinois. These were short-horns. In 1871 Joseph Lahman began breeding that kind of stock. Mr. Dysart now has a herd of about fifty, one of the finest in the state. He has at different times taken many diplomas. Twice at the Iowa state fair his herd has come off victorious. In 1873 Mr. Dysart, at five different fairs in northern Illinois, took thirty-five first premiums, and eighteen second premiums, in a total of thirty-nine



*Geo. W. Hewitt,*  
(DECEASED)





contests, losing only four first premiums. These and other similar victories have made the "Pines Stock Farm" one of the most noted in the northwest. In the fall of 1873 Mr. Hausen took premiums at Rochelle, Illinois, on everything he had on exhibition from the "Grove Stock Farm." Mr. Hausen has recently sold his entire herd. The breeding of choice swine and sheep has been pursued by several stockmen and farmers. In 1870 Sam. Dysart introduced the first pure-bred Berkshire swine. The varieties of sheep include Cotswolds, Merinos, and Lesters. Horses for speed were bred by Dr. Hewitt and George Gilbert. The Norman and Clydesdale blood is now being introduced. From these and other sources the improvement of stock has been much advanced. The assessment value of stock in China township in 1875 was \$70,000.

Tree culture had here an early history. In 1843 Father Whitney established the Franklin Grove nursery, and began grafting on stock raised from seed that was brought from Ohio in 1838. In 1846 he sent forth his first advertisement. From that time until the present his nursery has had a steady growth, until now he has an orchard covering more than a hundred acres. He also added other fruits, and ornamental shrubs and trees. This, at present, is an attractive spot. To this nursery, and the thrift and enterprise of residents in this vicinity, must be attributed the beauty of shade and ornamental trees for miles around. In September of 1872 W. H. Hausen shipped to the Iowa state fair ninety-seven varieties of apples and fifteen varieties of pears.

#### MILITARY.

Of the noble war record of Lee county China claims a full share. Two companies were organized at Franklin Grove. Besides these, several men went from China in other regiments. Co. G, 75th Ill. Inf., enlisted at the grove, and organized by choosing Joseph Williams captain; David Sanford first lieutenant, and Robert L. Irwin second lieutenant. They were mustered into the United States service August 22, 1862, with the legal number of non-commissioned officers and seventy privates. We do not know how many of these were from China, as it then existed; but probably much the greater part, if not nearly all, were from this township. At Perryville, Kentucky, the 75th suffered terribly. Here, in their first fight, twenty-two of Co. G fell. Co. C, 35th Ill. Vol. Inf., was organized at Springfield, Illinois; mustered into the United States service for three years September 7, 1861; reënlisted as veterans December 23, 1863. The original officers were: captain, Alexander P. Dysart, promoted major April 18, 1862, colonel 1863, resigned July 1863; first lieutenant, Benson Wood, promoted captain May 1, 1862, resigned January 29, 1863; second lieutenant,

Daniel Riley, promoted first lieutenant May 1, 1862, wounded 1863; sergeants: first, Peter F. Walker, promoted second lieutenant May 1, 1862, captain January 26, 1863, major October 5, 1864; Adaniram Keen, discharged August 5, 1862; Lindsey Black, veteran, promoted first sergeant July 20, 1863, first lieutenant October 5, 1864; David A. Glenn, discharged January 15, 1862; Wesley J. Williams, promoted first sergeant May 1, 1862, second lieutenant January 20, 1863, first lieutenant January 30, 1863, resigned October 5, 1864; corporals: B. F. Dysart, promoted quartermaster-sergeant September 9, 1862, second lieutenant Co. C, January 29, 1863, resigned October 5, 1864; John C. Lahman, promoted sergeant February 1862; Samuel S. Worley, veteran, reduced per request; William Seitz, promoted sergeant January 1, 1863, wounded at Stone River; Sidney Davis, transferred to the regular service December 10, 1862; George E. Crumb, Thomas Flynn, and Samuel Fish. Of this company the following deaths are noticed: Daniel Riley, first lieutenant, January 20, 1863, from wounds; J. Lindsley Black, first lieutenant, March 19, 1863; Charles Santee, killed November 31, 1862; Jacob C. Sunday, July 20, 1864; Henry Hoffmaster, May 17, 1862; John Fahey, killed April 7, 1862; John Adams, December 19, 1861; Charles H. Evans, June 1862; Jeremiah H. Stevens, killed December 31, 1862; George W. Schmucker, June 17, 1864; Joseph Lascert, killed June 27, 1864; John Rousch, 1863; George W. Conrad, killed May 19, 1865; Luther D. Wood, April 28, 1865; Aurelius Gaslin, 1864. Of the 115 about 30 did not live in China township when they enlisted. The larger part of these came from Ashton; a few from Ogle county. During their service the company were in more than twenty engagements, beginning with "bloody Shiloh" and ending with Goldsboro and Raleigh, North Carolina, including the siege of Corinth, Mississippi, Stone River, Tennessee, Kenesaw Mountain and Peach Tree Creek, Georgia, siege of Atlanta, march through Georgia, and the Carolina campaign.

The village of Franklin Grove is situated in the N.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 1, T. 21, R. 10. The first movement toward making a town here was in 1848 or 1849, when Christian Lahman, who owned the southern part of what is now Franklin, laid out in lots about ten acres in the southwestern part of the village. The only building then in this vicinity was the Minor House, which was used by various parties as a hotel until the new one was built on the same site.

In 1851 George W. Pense came to this place, and built a blacksmith shop near the corner south of the hotel. At the same time Webster came, who succeeded Thomas in the hotel. Davis also came, and moved into the Minor log house. In the fall of 1851, or the following spring, Webster built a stone building for a store on the corner west of where

George Engel is living. In this building Charles Ambrose opened a dry-goods store, and L. Yale clerked for him. In 1852 Charles Bill put up the first shoe shop, and Dr. Clark put up a barn where Charles Hausen is living. In May of 1854 H. I. Lincoln brought a stock of goods from Kendall county, and bought from L. Yale the store occupied by Ambrose. Ambrose then built for a store the present residence of F. A. Zoeller; sold out to Lahman & Bill; went to Texas in 1855, and soon died of consumption. All who knew him speak highly of the pioneer merchant. In 1856 Lahman sold out his interest to Bill, and built a large store on the corner, now occupied by the residence of G. Miller. He failed the same fall, and was closed out at auction. He is now a successful farmer in one of the western states.

The first post-office was established about 1848. A. Brown was the first postmaster, A. R. Whitney mail carrier. The route then was from Rockford to Peru. Whitney brought the mail once a week from Dixon on horseback; for this he received half the emoluments of the office, which amounted the first quarter to thirty-seven cents. Dr. Clark was the second incumbent, and during his term the name of the office was changed to Chaplain. A. R. Whitney received the next appointment. His deputies were Ambrose, Bill and Merritt. Whitney's gross receipts for the first quarter amounted to only \$4.75. In May of 1854 Dr. George W. Hewitt located here, and sold drugs on a small scale. A. L. Merritt soon succeeded him in this line of business, and in the fall of 1855 John C. Black located here and bought in with Merritt. The next year Black was made postmaster.

Franklin Grove had now fully attained the dignity of a country village. But in the meantime the new town had begun to develop. This was laid out in 1853, by A. W. Tolman, C. Lahman, and F. D. Robertson. The land in the northern part was owned by Tolman, the other by Lahman. In 1854 the Dixon Air Line of the Chicago & Galena Union railroad was completed through here, and the first regular train run to Dixon December 3, 1854. The same day A. B. Fitch came and began as agent for the railroad company. This position he has held nearly ever since. This fall Reuel Thorp built one of the first houses in the new town, and began in the grain business. Joseph Williams built on Spring street where Thomas lives. L. M. Blaisdell built on next lot south. At this time Simmons was living in a little house where Gilbert now lives. W. J. Leake started a harness shop in the small building now occupied by U. C. Roe for an office and medicine room. The building was then owned by John D. Chambers, who worked for Leake. In 1854 Williams put up the first building on Elm street south of the railroad. This was an elevator on the site of Smith's new elevator. In the rear of this building he kept a small



grocery store. S. J. Smith & Co. and L. M. Blaisdell began in the lumber business. In the winter of 1854-5 Rufus Covell came from Rochelle and started a small furniture store just south of William's elevator. The following spring Robert Scott built on Spring street, where Dr. Roe, jr., now lives, and also the warehouse now owned by H. I. Lincoln; Conrad Durkes built on Elm street, and in the fall brought a stock of dry goods from Oregon, Ogle county, the first sold in the new town. Mix & Losey built the store on the corner of Whitney and Elm streets, and a few weeks later began selling dry goods. Lagerquist opened the first shoe shop; Jonas Clisbee built, for a hotel, the house in which Dr. U. C. Roe lives, and this year Josiah Hughes put up his three-story stone hotel building in the old town of Chaplain. The work on this building was done by George Engel, who came to the town in 1855. The men who settled the village of Franklin Grove were young or in the prime of life. They had small means, but were energetic. The changes that have occurred here in business circles are too numerous to mention. Rufus Covell went to Iowa in the spring of 1864, and died there near his home at Nevada the following August. Mix is living in Oregon, Ogle county, a retired merchant. Losey returned to Ohio, and died of consumption soon after he settled here. When the town was incorporated the streets had received but little attention. The names of those running north and south, naming from the west, are State, Spring, Elm, Walnut, and Sycamore; from the north, North, Middle, Whitney, Franklin, South, and Lahman.

#### INCORPORATION.

In 1857 the town of Franklin Grove was incorporated under a general law in force at that date. On May 11, 1857, the citizens of the incorporated district met to vote on the question of incorporation; and after a president and clerk were sworn, 36 votes were cast for and 17 against incorporation. Josiah Hughes, Jonas Clisbee, L. M. Blaisdell, S. J. Smith and A. W. Tolman were elected trustees, with L. M. Blaisdell president; S. J. Smith was chosen clerk, and Jonas Clisbee was appointed street commissioner for the ensuing year. The boundaries of the corporation corresponded to those of the N.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 1, T. 21. At a meeting on October 6, 1857, a petition signed by fifteen citizens was presented, calling for sidewalks on some of the principal streets. October 8 it was ordered that a tax of fifty cents on the hundred dollars be levied on all real estate for building sidewalks, crosswalks, etc. December 28 C. Durkes was appointed treasurer of the corporation. At a meeting May 12, 1858, the following financial report was adopted: bills allowed and ordered paid, \$161.17; moneys received, \$124.97; dues unpaid, \$34.05. In 1864 alleys were opened and about two miles of sidewalk was laid.

A special charter for the town of Franklin Grove was approved by the state legislature in February 1865. It provided for the election of six councilmen and a president, a police magistrate and a town constable, each for four years; and fixed the date for the first election under the same March 1, 1865. The limits of the town were but slightly changed, a small strip south of the railroad on the east side being omitted. Small additions have since been made on the southern side.

The first election under the new charter resulted in the choice of C. Durkes for president; Josiah Hughes, J. J. Lichty, Joseph Williams, Jonas Clisbee, Geo. W. Brayton and Geo. H. Taylor were elected councilmen. On motion, Oscar Hughes was elected clerk and W. C. Robinson treasurer for the ensuing year.

In 1872 the town was chartered under the state law of incorporation. The issue at the municipal elections has generally been the license question. Of those who have most strongly opposed the license system may be named Geo. H. Taylor, C. Durkes, Charles Hausen, Ezra Wood, and Thomas Scott. With the railroad came a demand for liquor. E. McGuire, a noted character in the annals of this town, set up a rum-shop in 1854 on State street near the railroad. A year or two later it was torn down by a body of citizens and his liquors emptied in the street. This act led to considerable litigation. The irrepressible McGuire again located near the Hughes hotel and for many years after waged war with the anti-license element, claiming that if he had been let alone he would have converted the people to the cold-water plan, so much was he given to watering his stock. In 1861 a license was granted, and for a few years a bad state of things seemed to have prevailed. To use the language of a prominent citizen acquainted with the facts, "The legality of the town board was soon after questioned; its ordinances were obeyed or not as suited the individuals; lawlessness and drunkenness were rampant; gambling was carried on day and night in low places." Elections for town boards were not regularly held, nor were the proceedings of meetings always recorded. "The board ordered walks repaired and road labor performed; scarcely anyone would obey. The walks became unsafe; drunken men staggered in the streets until the thing became intolerable." The new charter of 1864 made strict provision for the regulation of the liquor question. In July of that year three roughs with drawn revolvers tried to intimidate the president of the board, C. Durkes, for the purpose of obtaining permission to gamble in one of the saloons. In a mêlée that ensued Samuel Sinmons, an inoffensive citizen, was severely injured. These were the dark days in the history of Franklin Grove. No licenses were issued from 1867 till

1877, when after an exciting canvass the license party prevailed. There are now three saloons in the village, each paying a license of \$200.

According to the census of 1880 the town has a population of 730. It has never contracted a bonded indebtedness. In 1860 H. I. Lincoln built the first substantial store building in the new town. In 1864 Frast and Hanger put up a large elevator, now owned by D. F. Lahman. In 1867 P. C. Rooney built his store. In 1871 Black and Twombly put up the block now owned and occupied by Black and Durkes. Canterbury built in 1872. The Band Hall was built in 1874, the wind grist-mill in 1875, and the Franklin Hotel in 1876.

The only paper here that has survived its infancy is the Franklin Grove "Reporter." Its short-lived precursor was the Franklin Grove "Gazette," printed in Dixon: it lived only a few months. The "Reporter" was started by John Blocher, editor and proprietor, and dates from August 1869. At the close of its second year D. H. Spickler bought the paper. He ran it till May 1875, when T. W. Scott became the manager.

Dr. D. H. Spickler was born in Franklin county, Pennsylvania, March 18, 1830. He came west in 1853, and in 1857 graduated from Rush Medical College, Chicago. For several years he was associated with Dr. G. W. Hewitt, of this place. After his connection with the "Reporter" he edited the Mendota "News" two years. He then settled to the practice of his profession at Ashton, where he died October 28, 1879. He was buried in the Franklin Grove cemetery. Scott sold out to D. B. Senger, the present editor and manager, August 5, 1876. The "Enterprise" was edited by P. O. Sproul from June, 1879, till November, 1880, the limits of its existence. The "Electric Light" was commenced in June of 1881, by A. D. Webb and W. G. Blocher.

#### SECRET SOCIETIES.

Franklin Grove Lodge, No. 264, A.F. and A.M., was chartered October 6, 1858. The charter members were L. M. Blaisdell, Daniel B. McKinney, Nathan Whitney, A. R. Whitney, William Forbes, Reuel Thorpe, C. Durkes, J. C. Black, George W. Hewitt, A. B. Fitch, P. C. Rooney, M. Decker, Isaac F. Forbes, Thomas L. Wood. The first officers were L. M. Blaisdell, W.M.; D. B. McKinney, S. W.; William Forbes, J.W.; Reuel Thorpe, Treas.; C. Durkes, Sec.; A. B. Fitch, S.D.; P. C. Rooney, J.D., and J. C. Black, Tyler. The present officers are Samuel Dysart, W.M.; B. L. Spence, S.W.; E. E. Faunce, J.W.; A. R. Whitney, Treas.; P. Runyan, Sec.; Jacob Gall, S.D.; S. Mong, J.D.; T. W. Scott, Chap.; A. D. Morrison, S.S.; Edward Drummond, J.S.; J. B. Spafford, Tyler. For eighteen years



A. R. Whitney has been treasurer of the lodge, and P. Runyan has been secretary for twelve years. In the winter of 1867-8 the lodge met in the new hall over Rooney's store. This hall they purchased in the following year for \$3,000. Previously meetings were held in the Hughes House, where the lodge was organized. Its membership is now fifty-five, only two of whom are out of the State of Illinois. Since the last return to the Grand Lodge, August 1880, the Franklin Grove Lodge has sustained the loss of three members, Dr. G. W. Hewitt, Thomas L. Wood, and L. C. Fish.

Nathan Whitney Chapter, No. 129, Royal Arch Masons, was chartered October 9, 1868. Charter members were P. C. Rooney, Nathan Whitney (in honor of whom the chapter was named), A. R. Whitney, A. B. Fitch, Geo. W. Hewitt, Reuel Thorpe, William Forbes, J. M. Forbes, M. Flint, Samuel Dysart, H. H. Glenn, W. H. Emerson, J. L. Strock. The first officers were P. C. Rooney, H.P.; A. B. Fitch, E. K.; Nathan Whitney, E.S.; W. H. Emerson, C.H.; Wm. Forbes, P.S.; Reuel Thorpe, R.A.C.; A. R. Whitney, Treas.; H. H. Glenn, Sec.; Geo. W. Hewitt, M.3d V.; J. M. Forbes, M.2d V.; Samuel Dysart, M.1st V., and M. Flint, Tyler. The present officers are P. C. Rooney, H.P.; H. A. Black, E.K.; James Crombie, E.S.; H. Bly, C.H.; Samuel Dysart, P.S.; E. E. Faunce, R.A.C.; A. R. Whitney, Treas.; P. Runyan, Sec.; J. R. Whitney, M.3d V.; Wm. F. Clark, M.2d V.; Wm. Stewart, M.1st V.; T. W. Scott, Chap. (G. W. Hewitt, deceased); William Flint, Steward, and J. B. Spafford, Tyler. The present membership is forty-five. A. R. Whitney has been treasurer since the organization of the chapter. For eleven years Philip Runyan has acted in the capacity of secretary.

Lady Franklin Chapter, No. 22, O.E.S., was organized June 13, 1872. The first officers were P. C. Rooney, Worthy Patron; Mrs. C. K. Black, Worthy Matron; Mrs. M. J. Whitney, A.M.; Mrs. O. K. Griswold, Treas.; Mrs. C. A. Black, Sec.; Miss A. M. Runyan, Cond.; Mrs. S. E. Spickler, A.C.; Mr. G. D. Black, Warder; Mrs. Julia Hausen, Adah; Mrs. Lydia Faunce, Ruth; Mrs. Madeline Dysart, Esther; Mrs. Mary Durkes, Martha; Miss Mollie Forbes, Electa; Mr. N. C. Roe, Sentinel. The present officers are Mr. Samuel Dysart, W.P.; Mrs. Jennie Dysart, W.M.; Mrs. M. J. Whitney, A.M. (pro tem); Mrs. R. M. Blaisdell, Treas.; Miss A. M. Runyan, Sec.; Mrs. S. E. Spickler, Cond.; Mrs. Belle Thompson, A.C.; Mr. J. Forbes, Warden; Miss E. H. Runyan, Adah; Mrs. M. J. Forbes, Ruth; Miss L. J. Runyan, Esther; Miss C. E. Fitch, Martha; Mrs. Mary Durkes, Electa; Mr. J. B. Spafford, Sentinel. The membership numbers sixty-six.

Lodge No. 409, I.O.O.F., Franklin Grove, was organized October 11, 1870. The charter was issued to S. W. Reigle, George Fishback,



George Engel, W. H. Bassler, and Nelson Strong. At the first meeting fourteen were admitted by card and initiation. In 1871 the lodge had forty-five active members. In 1880 eighteen names were reported to the Grand Lodge. The present officers are John Blocher, N.G.; Solomon Sunday, V.G.; Kincaid Runyan, Treas.; S. W. Reigle, Sec.; Geo. Engel, P.G.; S. W. Reigle, D.D.G.M.

March, 1874, the Daughters of Rebecca, Astoria Lodge, No. 67, received their charter, and S. W. Reigle instituted the lodge.

Warren Encampment, No. 122, was organized at Franklin Grove in 1870. In February, 1880, it was removed to Amboy.

#### RELIGIOUS.

At quite an early date religious meetings were held by the Methodists, German, Baptists, and the Universalists, of the Franklin Grove settlement. Log cabins and log school-houses served for temples of worship. Even the saw-mill on the creek was sometimes brought into requisition; and when in a busy time it was considered necessary to run it Sundays, the water would be shut off only long enough for the assembled worshipers to go through with their praises and devotions. The writer did not learn the denomination, if denominational they were, by which these "saw-mill" meetings were conducted. We doubt not, however, that they were of the genuine stamp. The first class of the Methodist church was formed by Father McKane, the Rock river missionary, probably before 1840, and Cyrus Minor was leader. The class met at his house and at Morgan's, and perhaps elsewhere. "In 1853 and 1854 R. R. Bibbins, of Light House Point (Ogle county) circuit, preached here once in four weeks Sabbath evening. In the fall of 1854 Brother Henry Martin, then stationed at Light House Point, came here and made an effort to raise the scattered membership; he reorganized the class with James Welsh leader." The class then met in the log school-house at the head of the grove. Brother Welsh Sister Rogers and Joseph Williams were often the only members present; occasionally old Sister Morgan would attend class. In 1854 Docter Roe and his wife were members of this class. In the fall of 1855 M. Decker was sent to Lee Center, and Franklin Grove became a part of his charge. This year the first quarterly meeting was held in the new school-house, Luke Hitchcock, the presiding elder, being present. A. D. Field, H. Richardson and Brother Penfield followed M. Decker as pastors of the society. In the fall of 1860 W. T. Harlow, principal of the Rock River Seminary at Mt. Morris, came twenty miles to fill his appointments here. "Garrison's" and Grand Detour were then the other points on the circuit. In the fall of 1861 Rev. Brookins came and remained two years. In 1862 the Universalist

church was used for worship. During this year many were added to the church; three classes were formed. In 1863, during the pastorate of C. W. Wright, the church building was begun on the corner of what are now known as State and Middle streets, in the western part of the village, very near where the Tolmans settled. In the same year a board of trustees was chosen, among whom were James H. Welsh, A. R. Whitney, and Joseph Williams. In the fall of 1866 H. J. Husted organized the Sabbath-school, with twenty-five scholars. The same year twenty were added to the church. The school now has an enrollment of seventy-eight, E. A. Wood, superintendent. The pastors not mentioned have been C. Webster, "Brother Penfield," L. M. Anderson, H. T. Giles, John Williamson, A. P. Hatch, S. T. Snow, James Bush, A. J. Scott, J. Wardle, J. C. Cooper, and A. H. Schoonmaker. The present officary of the church are: trustees, George H. Taylor, A. S. Jacobs, E. A. Wood, George Newcomer, John D. Sitts, and M. L. Gaver; stewards, George Newcomer, John Welsh, H. L. Gaver, H. Street, E. A. Wood, Mrs. Durkes, and Mrs. Forbes; pastor, A. H. Schoonmaker. The church is clear of debt and has a membership of about fifty.

On July 12, 1881, the Dixon District Camp-meeting Association was organized at Franklin Grove. The officers of the association are: president, Rev. L. Hitchcock, D.D.; vice-president, Hon. Isaac Rice; secretary, Rev. I. E. Springer; treasurer, Rev. A. H. Schoonmaker; executive committee, Rev. A. H. Schoonmaker, Rev. F. P. Cleveland, Rev. R. M. Smith, Rev. G. W. Carr, Hon. F. G. Petrie, R. B. Sproul, and James Brown. Ten acres of ground just outside of the village corporation, west of the Methodist Episcopal church, was bought from I. Zug for \$1,000. This is being fitted up, and is to be used for a permanent camp-meeting ground. The first meeting opened August 31, 1881.

The Revs. W. W. Harsha and E. Erskine, and Elder Charles Crosby, were a committee appointed by the Rock River (O. S.) presbytery for the organization of a Presbyterian church at Franklin Grove. Accordingly the committee met in the public school room January 1, 1861. The following persons presented themselves, and were duly organized under the name of the Franklin Grove Presbyterian church: Thomas Scott and his wife, Elizabeth; George H. Brewer and Mrs. Abbie D. Brewer, James Leidy, Mary A. Girton, Mrs. A. Twiss, Mrs. C. D. and Mrs. S. Loomis, Jeremiah Ketchum and Mrs. Phoebe Ketchum; George W. Brayton and Lucy A. Brayton by letter; and on profession of faith, Mr. P. Y. Van Vrankin, Richard Pollock, Miss Mary A. Pollock, Mr. J. Gilbert and Mrs. Elizabeth Gilbert, Silas P. Tolman and his wife, Clarinda. Mr. C. D. Loomis and Jeremiah Ketchum

were elected elders. C. D. Loomis was the first clerk. G. W. Brayton, G. W. Hewitt, G. W. Pitcher, G. H. Brewer and Jeremiah Ketchum were the first board of trustees. At a meeting February 9, 1861, George H. Brewer was elected secretary of the church and board of trustees. There had been occasional preaching a short time before the organization was effected. W. W. Harsha was the first pastor. During January of 1861 Mrs. Van Vrankin, Mrs. Jane Hussey, James Butler and Mrs. Sarah Butler were admitted; in June, 1862, James M. Dysart, Martha A. Van Vrankin, Gertrude M. Van Vrankin, Alice M. and Lucy A. Brayton. September 19, 1863, G. W. Brayton, Thomas Scott and J. Gilbert were ordained and installed as ruling elders by W. L. Lyons, the second pastor. At the same date Dr. G. W. Hewitt, his wife, Carrie D., and Mrs. Sophia Brown were received on examination; and Mrs. E. M. Lyons by letter. The Rev. Lyons has been succeeded in the pastorate by W. Hare, A. F. Morrison, Spencer Baker, S. N. Vail, W. C. Cort, F. C. Cochrane, and H. S. Jordan. A Sunday-school was organized in 1857, with T. W. Scott as superintendent, in which capacity Mr. Scott has acted ever since with slight intermissions. This was a union school, and it now numbers about 100 members. The present membership of the church is sixteen. In 1865 this society conjointly with the Lutherans (German) built a church, which they have since used in common.

The German Lutheran church was organized under the preaching of Rev. William Uhl, and meetings were held in Lincoln's Hall, the Universalist church, and the school-house, previous to the building of the church, about one year. George Engel, George Fishback, George Kreitzer and John Genk constituted the first board of trustees. The pastors have been William Angelberger, who organized the Sabbath-school, Charles Young, C. A. Reuter, H. Stauffenberg, and Rev. Stolle. The present trustees are Joseph Goether, Ernst Dietrick, Z. Wendel, and Henry Gonnerman. For several years the church has been weak, there having been a dissension which has divided its members.

The German Baptist church, familiarly styled the Brethren or Dunkards, has great financial and numerical strength. The first families of this faith to settle here were the Lahmans and the Emmerts, who came in 1843. The following year the Riddlesbargers came, and about this time meetings were held in their respective dwellings and subsequently in the log school-house. Father Emmert was the first preacher. Christian Lahman was also a minister in this church. The first house of worship was built on the Dixon road in the present town of Nachusa. This was a small grout house, about 20×30 feet, on the south side of the N.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 5, T. 21. It has since been twice remodeled, until its dimensions are 35×60 feet. About fifteen years ago



a church was built at Ashton. In the fall of 1879 the central church was built at Franklin Grove, a little northwest of the village. This is a large building. In these three edifices services are alternated. This is styled the Rock River church. Its present membership is about 175. Seven or eight years ago it was 300, but many have left, thus reducing the number. The church has no officiating pastor; but they, so to speak, do their own preaching; that is, there are two resident ordained elders or bishops, and others of inferior orders, there being three orders of ordination in the church. These bishops and elders share the labor of preaching the gospel. The most apparent characteristics of this people are the simplicity of their dress and worship, and in business their industry and thrift, with a lack of what is commonly called enterprise or public spirit.

The Universalist church of Franklin Grove was organized by Thomas J. Carney, who wrote the constitution, by-laws, etc. In 1856 a church was built on the corner of Elm and Bradford streets. While it was building meetings were held in the house of Jonas Clisbe, now Dr. U. C. Roe's dwelling. The Hausens, Uncle John Fish, "old man Clisbe," who had the contract to build the church, John C. Black and Isaac Twombly were early members of the organization. But many years prior to this organized society there was preaching at Hausen's, Whipple's, Cooper's, and at other private houses. T. J. Bartholomew was the first preacher. J. O. Barrett and C. F. Dodge preached each two years. The Rev. Chase and the Rev. Cook were pastors, Cook being the last. For several years there have been no regular services, and the society, once quite flourishing, seems now to be nearly broken up.

#### SCHOOLS.

The first and only school-house in Franklin Grove was built in part in 1856, on the corner of Elm and Bradford streets. It was then 30×40 feet. In 1867 thirty feet in length was added, making it 30×70 feet. The first principal was T. W. Scott, ably assisted by his wife. The school was soon graded into four departments, one primary, two intermediate, and one high school. Mr. Scott was connected with the school in all seventeen years. The other principals were Moler, Wood, Whetstone, Newton, and Webb. Of the teachers who deserve mention by reason of their long or efficient service, or both, are Miss Hattie Walters, Miss Young, Julia M. Brackett, Virginia Brown, Sophia Town, Mrs. Tyler, Maggie Bailey, Miss Ramsdell, Bricy Gaver, and Mrs. Newton. E. W. Newton, S. A. Griswold and A. Plessinger are the present trustees, and Prof. Thorp is the principal.



## MISCELLANEOUS.

In 1863 the Franklin Grove Cemetery Association was formed, and Isaac Twombly was made president. The long-neglected ground was enlarged and fenced. It is said that Mrs. Holly was the first one buried in this cemetery; this was in 1839. It is situated west of the northern part of the corporation of Franklin Grove, joining it. In 1872 a sidewalk was constructed from the Methodist Episcopal church to the cemetery ground.

In June, 1874, James McCosh organized the Silver Cornet Band of Franklin Grove, with twelve pieces. In October they were made a corporate body, and as such proceeded to the erection of a band hall, which after a year or two passed out of their hands. For about two years it has been used by E. W. Newton for a plow manufactory.

The Cheese Factory Association of Franklin Grove was organized in February 1881, A. H. Schoonmaker, president; N. Hausen, vice-president; H. Black, secretary and treasurer; A. R. Whitney, C. L. Anthony and Charles Wertman, directors. A committee was appointed to draft constitution and by-laws. February 12, 1881, an agreement was entered into between the Association and C. L. Anthony, of Whitesides county, by which he agreed to manufacture full cream cheese from the milk of not less than 100 cows at two and a half cents per pound. Manufacture of cheese was begun May 4, 1881, in the village of Franklin Grove.

## BIOGRAPHICAL.

NATHAN WHITNEY, Franklin Grove. Col. Nathan Whitney, or more appropriately Father Whitney, was born in Conway, Massachusetts, January 22, 1791. His grandfather, Capt. Jonathan Whitney, was one of the selectmen who organized the town of Conway, about 110 years ago. He bore arms in defense of the colonies all through the revolutionary war. He emigrated to the Indian Orchard, called "Seneca Castle," near the city of Geneva, Ontario county, New York, about ninety years ago. Capt. Jonathan was followed two years later by his eldest son, Nathan, who settled near him, when our subject was two years of age. The elder Nathan Whitney had five sons, Luther, Otis, Nathan, Jonathan, Cheney, and one daughter. A few years ago these five brothers were all living, their united ages being four hundred years. Three still survive. The eldest died in 1880 of cancer in the eye, aged ninety-eight years. The younger, Nathan, like his father, seems to have been born a pioneer. He opened a farm near Allison, New York, and another in the town of Elba. He first visited Lee county in 1835, again in 1836 and 1837, his family following in 1838. He was one of the commissioners to organize the county of Lee, Illinois,

and he has since twice held the office of county commissioner in said county. His nursery was the first north of the Illinois river. From De Witt Clinton, of New York, he has three militia commissions, those of captain, lieutenant-colonel, and colonel. He was in the engagement at Fort Erie in the war of 1812. Mr. Whitney is the oldest Mason in Lee county, if not in the northwest. During the Morgan excitement he was "among the faithless faithful found." He married Sarah Graef when twenty years of age. He has had a family of ten children, three of whom died young. Of the others only one, the youngest, was a son, with whom Mr. Whitney is now living, about a mile south of the village of Franklin Grove, on the farm claimed by the colonel forty-five years ago.

A. R. WHITNEY, nurseryman, Franklin Grove, was born February 22, 1824, in Orleans county, New York. He is the youngest child and the only son of Col. Nathan Whitney. Mr. Whitney was but fourteen years old when the family emigrated to China from the State of Ohio, in which they had lived a few years prior to this movement. August 14, 1851, he was married to Mary J. Oakley. Their issue are four children: Jesse, Carrie (wife of A. W. Crawford, South Dixon), Nathan, and May. The sons are married and associated with their father in his extensive business, the culture and shipping of fruit, and the manufacture and sale of cider. The mother of A. R. Whitney died in April 1865.

WILLIAM DYSART, farmer, Franklin Grove, was born in Henderson county, Pennsylvania, in 1828, son of James and Elizabeth Dysart. His father's parents and his mother's mother came from Ireland, and his mother's father from Germany. They were of strong constitutions and lived to a ripe old age. His mother was born in 1799, and died in 1875. His father died March 1873, aged eighty-five years. Ten children were born to these parents, eight boys and two girls, all of whom grew to maturity. They were all reared on a farm, and received a common schooling. Joseph Dysart, the grandfather of our subject, and a brother, Alexander, were the only members of a family of five or more sons who came from the north of Ireland to Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, and thence to Henderson county. Alexander traded much with the Indians, and became very wealthy. From 1807 till 1812, inclusive, he was a member of the general assembly of Pennsylvania, from Henderson county, and again in 1815. In 1846 James Dysart came to Lee county, and between that and 1849 bought land enough to give each of his children one half-section. In 1850 William Dysart came to Dixon, Illinois, and the same year broke twenty acres of his farm in Sec. 13, T. 21, China. In 1853 he built a house where he now lives. In February, 1858, he celebrated his mar-

riage with Mary Grazier, of his native county. Their issue are two daughters, aged thirteen and eleven. Mr. Dysart owns the N.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 13, and the E.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of S.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  same, 120 acres of timber in Ogle county, 240 acres in Cerro Gordo and Bremer counties, Iowa. In 1869 Mr. Dysart built his barn, at a cost of \$4,500. He is a republican in politics, having formerly been a whig. His father was a whig until he became an abolitionist. Of the many genial men we have met in this vicinity Mr. Dysart is rather more than an average.

SAMUEL DYSART, farmer, Franklin Grove, was born in Huntingdon county, Pennsylvania, September 14, 1834, son of William and Eliza Dysart, from whom he inherited a strong constitution. He was reared on his father's farm, and received a common schooling. In 1855 he came to China township and went to work on a half section of prairie previously purchased by his father. This is the E.  $\frac{1}{2}$  Sec. 14, T. 21, to which he has since added an eighty in Sec. 13, making a farm of 400 acres. On February 24, 1858, Mr. Dysart was married to Margaret J. Henderson, born September 11, 1834, a farmer's daughter, and the playmate of his youth. Ten children have been born of this marriage: Harry W., December 26, 1858; Lilly V., June 7, 1860; Lola W., January 10, 1863 (Lola died October 11, 1865, and Lilly, March 15, 1872); U. Grant, September 14, 1865; Drusilla D., December 1, 1866; Horace H., September 18, 1868; Jesse R., July 12, 1871; Birdie B., April 4, 1873; May J., August 23, 1875. Mr. Dysart began farming with the intention of raising improved stock as soon as he should get his farm sufficiently improved. Accordingly in 1867 he began with four thorough-bred short-horns, and now has one of the finest herds in the state. He has heretofore given attention to the breeding of Berkshire swine, having shipped them as far as the Rocky mountains. Mr. Dysart was one of the first members of the Lee County Agricultural Association. He has been several years a member of the State Board of Agriculture. In consequence of his prominence as a stock breeder he was appointed live-stock commissioner to the Paris exhibition of 1878, and received his commission from President Hayes in February. He sailed in May, and besides spending three months in Paris, traveled several weeks in different parts of Europe. Mr. Dysart's residence, built in 1877 at a cost of between \$6,000 and \$7,000, is elegantly furnished. His grounds are beautifully decorated with choice flowers, in the care of which he is much engaged. His large stock barn is in keeping with his other buildings. The farm is known as the "Pines Stock Farm," having taken the name of the "Pines place" from the large pine trees planted near the house. In politics Mr. Dysart is a republican.

B. F. DYSART, lumber dealer, Franklin Grove, was born in Hen-

derson county, Pennsylvania, 1841; son of James and Elizabeth Dysart. In 1856 he came with his father to Lee county. He attended school at Lee Center and Dixon. In the fall of 1860 he began improving his farm, the N.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 23, T. 21, China, and built a house on it. August 7, 1861, he enlisted in Co. C, 34th Ill. Inf., and was mustered at Camp Butler, September 2. November 4, 1864, his resignation was accepted and he was discharged. The same year he was married to Miss A. C. A. Harrison, of Canton, Stark county, Ohio, by whom he has one son, Edgar H., born January 1866. After his discharge from the army Mr. Dysart was one year United States revenue assessor in East Ohio and West Virginia. He was one year engaged in business in Canton, Ohio; thence to Franklin Grove, where he lived one year. In the meantime he was improving his farm, before mentioned, on to which he moved in the spring of 1868. Here he lived till 1876, when he sold out and moved into the village of Franklin Grove, and engaged in the lumber business with C. D. Hussey. In 1866 Mr. Dysart sold his farm of 160 acres in Nachusa township. He is a republican.

AMOS HUSSEY, farmer, Franklin Grove, was born in York county, Pennsylvania, August 1806. His father, Amos Hussey, and his mother, Abigail Edmondson, were both born in Pennsylvania. His father was of Welsh ancestry, and followed the occupation of farmer; he had a family of twelve children, five of whom lived to maturity. He died when our subject was fourteen years of age. The mother of the latter was of English descent, and died nearly fifty years ago. Amos Hussey, jr., learned the business of weaving, spinning, and dressing cloth, and followed the same for a few years. About 1834 he married Jane F. Holly, whose birth was the first in Fredonia, New York, January 1, 1817. In 1838 Mr. Hussey came with his wife and two children overland to Franklin Grove; lived the first winter on the south side of the Grove, and the next year came to his present location, a little northwest of the village of Franklin Grove, in Sec. 35. His wife died May 1876. He and an elder sister residing in Ohio are the only survivors of his father's family. His family consist of three living: Mary D. (Mrs. Josiah Little, Amboy, Ill.); Jerome (married and living in Amboy), and Columbus. The second, third and fourth of his family died young: Jesse, aged three years; William H. Harrison, eight years, and Medrick D., between one and two years of age. Mr. Hussey now owns a farm of 115 acres, having sold some of his land. In politics he is a republican.

GEORGE H. TAYLOR, grain dealer, Franklin Grove, was born in Cheshire county, New Hampshire, 1823. His father, John Taylor, was of Scotch ancestry. His mother was Catherine Livermore. The Livermores were early Puritan settlers in New England, and came



from Holland. John Taylor was a tanner by trade; he had a family of eight children, only one of whom was a son. In 1838 he came to Ogle county, Illinois, and settled at Daysville, and subsequently claimed half a section of land. Here he lived till 1849, when he removed to St. Charles, Illinois, where he died in 1854 or 1855. His wife died in 1871, aged eighty-six. In the fall of 1846 George H. Taylor married Emily C Wood. Their children are: Alice (Mrs. William B. Loyd, St. Charles, Illinois), Ella (Mrs. William Hemme, California), Flora (Mrs. D. R. Timothy, China, Lee county, Illinois), Clara (Mrs. David T. Jones, Washington, District of Columbia), Frank and Lucius. In 1857 Mr. Taylor came to Franklin Grove and engaged in the grain business, which he has since followed. In 1870 he built his elevator at a cost of \$5,000, with a storage capacity of 20,000 bushels. Mr. Taylor is a republican in politics, having been an abolitionist. His wife is a member of the Methodist church.

U. C. ROE, doctor, Franklin Grove, was born in Eddyville, Lyon county, Kentucky. His father, John Roe, was born in Philadelphia, August 19, 1800, of English and German blood, and possessed a splendid physical organization. When he was twenty-one years old he located in Lyon county, Kentucky, on the Cumberland river, and was here married to Elizabeth, youngest daughter of Col. Nathan Lyon, a native of Ireland. In 1827 John Roe moved with his family to Springfield, Illinois, and began the study of medicine. In an early day he settled at Light-house Point, Ogle county, having previously made a claim on the Illinois river, in Putnam county, but on going to Galena to enter it found that a speculator had got ahead of him. In the fall of 1837 the subject of this sketch made his first trip to Chicago. In the winter of 1837-8 he went to a school kept in his father's log house, and in the winter of 1838-9 in the new school-house, to Charles B. Farwell, now of Chicago. He worked on a farm summers till 1844, attending the Mount Morris Academy winters. In 1845 he entered the Ohio Botanico-Medical College, and attended one term of lectures. After sixteen years' practice of medicine he received a diploma from this institution. Upon his father's removal to Chicago, about 1845, our subject entered into a large and lucrative practice. In 1846 he married Almeda Brown. Their issue are: Nathaniel C. (married), Ella (Mrs. T. J. Giddings, Cedar Rapids, Iowa), Lucy (Mrs. A. R. Hamlin, Wisconsin); Frederick U. and Carrie, Emma and Belle, aged fifteen years, and John, aged two years, are dead. In the spring of 1854 Mr. Roe came to Franklin Grove and lived here till 1860, and returned again in 1870. In 1860 he began the manufacture and sale of medicine, in which business with his sons he is now engaged. He has a large number of teams and wagons out through the country in



Yours Truly A C Roe



the sale of his medicines. The doctor also treats chronic diseases, and lectures on phrenology and the laws of health. He is an ordained deacon in the Methodist Episcopal church, and a greenbacker in politics.

CONRAD DURKES, merchant, Franklin Grove, was born in the Palatine in 1829. His parents were Philip and Appolonia (Stelzer) Durkes. His father was three years a soldier, and under Napoleon was taken prisoner on the march to Moscow. Conrad was the youngest of a large family, only two of whom are living. In 1842 he came to New Orleans with his father, who was a mechanic; thence after six months they went to St. Louis, and in 1845 to Chicago, where his father died in 1858, and his mother in 1866. Here his widowed sister is living. Conrad Durkes remained in this city till 1852, when he went to Oregon, Ogle county, where he sold goods till 1855. He then came to Franklin Grove and began in the dry-goods business, which he has since followed here with one interruption of three years. By close attention to business Mr. Durkes has amassed a good property. In 1858 he married Mary Jones. They have four children living: Augustus P., Ida E., Warren C. and Stelzer A.; Mary Kate died in 1870, aged four years. His family belong to the Methodist Episcopal church. Mr. Durkes is a Mason and independent in politics. He received an average schooling in the German public schools, but has since obtained in actual business that which is far more efficient, and which has made him a man of excellent business qualifications.

EZRA A. WOOD, merchant, Franklin Grove, was born in Augusta, Canada, in 1833. His mother was Mary (Earle) Wood. His father, Anthony Wood, was born in Schoharie county, New York. In 1838 Anthony Wood left Canada, after a short residence there, and came to Ogle county, Illinois. He settled near Oregon and purchased a claim to 160 acres in Nachusa township and improved it. He died on his way overland to the Pacific coast in 1850. He was twice married and had eleven children, two by his first wife. Ezra Wood was attending school at Mount Morris when his father died, but did not go to school after this event. In 1860 he went overland to Colorado, and there enlisted, October 1861, in the 1st Col. Inf. The regiment saw some fighting in New Mexico, and skirmished there and along the Rio Grande with the "rebs." and Indians. In June, 1862, this regiment was encamped at Val Verda on a sandy bluff. There Mr. Wood, with many others, was taken sick with mountain fever, and did not recover till fall, when he was discharged on account of physical disability. He came to Franklin Grove in the fall of 1864, having traveled over much of the western country. In June, 1865, he married Charlotte Herrington. Mr. Wood is a republican and a member of the Methodist church.



HENRY A. BLACK, stationer and jeweler, Franklin Grove, was born in Waldo county, Maine, in 1842; son of John C. and Clohe (Wilber) Black, both of Maine. His father was a hotel-keeper; his family consisted of seven children, six of whom are living. The family came to Franklin Grove in the fall of 1855, and John Black went into the drug business with A. L. Meritt. Mr. Black was made postmaster soon after, which office he held till 1861, after which he did but little business. He died in 1864 with consumption, having suffered many years from the effects of asthma. Henry Black, the subject of this article, attended school two years at Lombard University, Knox county, intending to complete a course there, but the civil war interfered with this plan, and in December of 1863 he enlisted in the 75th Ill. Inf., Co. G, Capt. Irwin. By an order from the war department he was detailed clerk in the quartermaster's office at Camp Butler, in which capacity he acted about two months. After this he was in the adjutant-general's office at the same point, most of the time as chief clerk, till he was mustered out, August 1865. In the following November he married Clara A. Timothy, daughter of Otis Timothy. Their children are Nellie, born June 22, 1868; Lindsey, June 26, 1870; Edith M., May 2, 1875. His grandfather on his father's side was of Scotch descent, and his paternal grandmother was born in Ireland, and came to Maine when she was six years of age. His mother's people were Scotch. His grandfather Black was militiaman in the war of 1812, and participated in the defense of shipping on Penobscot Bay. For this service he received a land warrant. In politics Mr. Black is a republican.

T. W. SCOTT, teacher, Franklin Grove, was born in Huntingdon county, Pennsylvania, July 19, 1832. He is the youngest child of James and Elizabeth (Jordan) Scott, both born in Pennsylvania. Of their family of five four are living. Mr. Scott's grandparents all came from Scotland. His father was a mechanic. Our subject received his education chiefly at Central Academy, Juniata county. In February, 1856, he married Elizabeth, youngest daughter of James Dysart. He came west to Nachusa in March 1856. After remaining there a few weeks he came to Franklin Grove, which has since been his home. At this time he began opening the farm on which Samuel Riddlesbarger lives. In the fall of 1856 Mr. Scott organized the school in the new school-house at Franklin Grove. He was connected with this school till 1878 and taught in all eighteen years, all but one of which he was at its head. So long was he connected with the school that during the latter part of his service he could look over his pupils and see a dozen or more of them sitting in seats formerly occupied by their parents, who had also been his pupils. Among other things shown us as testimonials

of regard from his pupils was a large bible, presented to him at an exhibition at the close of examinations for the first year. Mrs. Scott died May 11, 1862, leaving three children: Frank G., born September 1, 1858; Lois M., March 2, 1860, and Lizzie D., April 18, 1862 (deceased July 28, 1862). She was born in Huntingdon county, December 14, 1837. She was a member of the Presbyterian church, to which Mr. Scott also belongs. In 1868 Mr. Scott bought a lot and built his house in the village of Franklin Grove. He sold his farm in 1874, upon which he had lived four years previous to the death of his wife.

W. C. ROBINSON, merchant, Franklin Grove, was born in central New York December 26, 1817. His parents were Nathan and Mary (Minor) Robinson. He was reared about a mile and a half from the Pennsylvania state line in Chautauqua county, New York, into which his father moved at an early day and cleared up a farm. It is here that our subject has his first recollections. His father's ancestors were Scotch; his mother's English. His father raised eleven children, seven of whom are living. In the fall of 1841 W. C. Robinson left home with a brother and went to Louisiana. Here they chopped wood during the following winter. In the spring he came to Ogle county, his brother returning home via New Orleans. In the winter of 1842-3 Mr. Robinson again went down the Mississippi. Returning in the spring of 1843, he bought a claim to his farm in Sec. 10, T. 21, China township, and built on it. The following year he married Harriet Hausen, eldest daughter of Charles Hausen, sr. Their issue are: Sophia (wife of Robert McCoy, Iowa), Henry, George, and Anna (Mrs. Frank Mentzler). Mrs. Robinson died April 10, 1872. In 1856 Mr. Robinson engaged in the drug business, having rented his farm. In 1874 he went into partnership with his son George W., who was married in 1874, to Mary E. Spiller, by whom he has one daughter. Mr. Robinson is a republican, but voted the democratic ticket till Fremont's candidacy.

DAVID R. MINOR, farmer, Franklin Grove, was born in the State of New York, in 1827. His father, Cyrus R. Minor, was born in Massachusetts, in 1782, of English ancestry. In 1836 David Minor came with his parents and their family to Lee county, where they settled. The family consisted of Lockwood, Albert, Sarah, Daniel, and David. Lockwood died in Missouri, September 1870. Daniel died in California in 1852, aged twenty-five years. Cyrus Minor died in 1846. In 1854 David Minor married Cina Whitmore. Their children are Daniel, Iva, Rose, David H. and Cyrus E. Mr. Minor is living on his farm in Sec. 12, T. 21, China. This is land he claimed in an early day, and worked several years before he was married. He belongs to the Evan-

gelical church. Is a republican in politics. His father was a whig. The latter was thrice married. The mother of David Minor died in 1839.

DAVID F. LAHMAN, farmer and stock dealer, Franklin Grove, was born in Franklin county, Pennsylvania, in 1837. He is the son of Christian and Elizabeth (Emmert) Lahman. He came west with his parents in 1843. He was reared a farmer. In 1863 he married Anna Brugh. Lulu is their only child. Mr. Lahman has lived on the homestead since 1858, at which time he came in possession of 205 acres. He built his barn in 1867, his house in 1869, which with his other buildings, cost about \$7,000. Mr. Lahman now owns 532 acres in Lee county, 165 in Ogle, and an interest in a large tract in Story county, Iowa. Mr. Lahman is a man of great business activity. For about ten years he made stock shipping his business. He does but little of this now. From his farm he turns each year from 500 to 800 head of stock. For several years he has been extensively engaged in poultry dealing, handling from \$18,000 to \$20,000 in one season in this traffic. There are but few men who do as much business as Mr. Lahman. He has five brothers and two sisters living, having lost his parents, one brother, and one sister. Mrs. Lahman is a member of the German Baptist church.

ISRAEL ZUG, butcher, Franklin Grove, was born in Lebanon county, Pennsylvania, in 1827. His parents were John and Margaret (Lane) Zug. His fathers ancestors were from Switzerland, and his mother's from Holland. His father was born in 1797, and died in 1873; his mother was two years older, and died in 1871. Israel Zug followed farming, his father's occupation, till he was about seventeen years old; then he learned the tanner's trade. In 1850 he came to Peru, Illinois; lived there one year, and then bought 80 acres of land about eight miles north of that city, and farmed it till 1855. In 1856 he came to Franklin Grove, and the following year opened a meat market. He has followed this line of business ever since, and has established a good trade. In 1848 Mr. Zug married Rachel Johnson. Their issue are seven: John, Nathan, Alfred, Mary, Frank, Hattie, and Llewellyn. John, when about fifteen or sixteen years old, left home, went east, and enlisted in a New York artillery company. He was in the service about one and a half years; subsequently learned the mason's trade, and was married in Memphis, Tennessee, to an Iowa lady. About six years ago, while working in St. Joseph, Missouri, he wrote to his wife, at Virgil City, that he would be home in a few days. He started from St. Joseph at the appointed time, but was never afterward seen by his family and friends. His fate is a mystery. He is thought, however, to be dead.



JOHN D. SITTS, merchant, Franklin Grove, was born in Oneida county, New York, in 1831. His parents were George and Harriet (Bartlett) Sitts, who were born and reared in the Mohawk valley. His mother's ancestors came from Holland, and his father's from Germany, at an early date in the history of New York. His father was a contractor on the Erie canal. In 1849 he came to Chicago and engaged in a commission business, which he followed till his death in 1863. John Sitts, his son, received a common schooling and learned the molder's trade. In 1854 he came to Chicago and in 1857 to Franklin Grove. Here he engaged in the lumber business, in the firm of Sitts, Thomas & Co. This he followed chiefly for about ten years. In 1872 he began in the grocery business, having previously farmed in Lee and Ogle counties. In 1863 he married Eva E. Lincoln. Their children are Henry B., Gertie G., Bertha C. and Helen E. Mr. Sitts has been four years a notary. He is a republican. His mother died in 1844. Of his father's family of nine only four are living, one sister and two brothers in Chicago.

D. B. SENGER, editor, Franklin Grove, was born in Franklin county, Pennsylvania, July 8, 1849; son of Daniel and Elizabeth (Bayer) Senger. His father was a shoemaker. He had a family of four, of whom our subject is the eldest. The family settled at Cedar Rapids, Iowa, in 1865. Here the junior Senger worked on the shoemaker's bench and attended the common schools till he was twenty-one years old. Then he went to Western College, attending there nearly two years, the last in 1873, in the meantime teaching to support himself. In 1876 he bought from T. W. Scott the Franklin Grove "Reporter," having first come to Lee county in 1873. He was married in 1875, to Susan A. Buck. He has two children, a son and daughter.

JOSIAH HUGHES, hotel keeper, Franklin Grove, was born February 15, 1808, in Otsego county, New York; son of Willian and Sally (Dilly) Hughes. His father was a farmer, and of his family of eight sons and three daughters Josiah was the eldest. On New Year's day of 1831 he was married to Lydia Barry. Ten years later his mother died at Waterville, and in 1844 he came with his wife, two children and his father to St. Charles, Kane county, Illinois. In this vicinity he bought a farm, which he worked a short time. He then moved into the village of St. Charles and dealt in stoves, etc. On September 1, 1854, he arrived in Franklin Grove. The following year he built the Hughes Hotel, a three-story stone building, at a total cost of nearly \$9,000, having bought the premises from C. Lahman for \$1,800. Mr. Hughes has had five children, only one of whom, the eldest, lives: Oscar (married and living in Henderson county, Kentucky), Julia (Mrs. Trumbull, died



aged twenty-eight years), and three who died young, the eldest being only five years.

GEORGE FISHBACK, carpenter, Franklin Grove, was born in Alsace, then part of France, in 1828. His parents, George and Margaret Fishback, had four children, of whom he was the eldest. His father died when he was eight years old. He came to New York city in February of 1853, and worked three years at his trade; thence he came to Lee county, Illinois, and in 1857 he bought property in the southwest part of the village of Franklin Grove. Here he has since lived and followed his trade. In 1854 he married Rose Schweisberger. Their children number five: George, Lena, Margaret, John, and Rose. Frank died aged one year. George, Lena and Margaret are married and living in Dixon.

JOHN L. STROCK, mechanic, Franklin Grove, was born in Franklin county, Pennsylvania, in 1841. His parents were Samuel and Esther (Lahman) Strock. Their family consisted of three sons and two daughters. John Strock lived on his father's farm till he was sixteen years of age, when he learned the carpenter's trade. In 1861 he came to Mount Carroll, Illinois, and on June 6 of the same year enlisted in Co. C, of the 92d Ill. Inf. They were mustered at Rockford, Illinois, September 4, 1861, and were sent to Perryville, Kentucky. The subject of this sketch was in the battles of Fort Donelson, Shiloh, Nashville, Stone River, Chattanooga, with Sherman to the sea, and around to Baltimore. He was shot through the right arm Nicky-Jack Gap, losing thereby a part of the radius near the wrist. He was mustered out July 15, 1865. In 1867 Mr. Strock came to Franklin Grove and worked at his trade till 1876, having in the meantime built many of the fine barns that adorn this region of the country. He is now in company with the Lahman Brothers in the manufacture of the Great Western Seeder, having recently rented the large windmill which he built in 1876, and in which he has a half interest. In 1869 he married Abbie Withey, of Lee county, by whom he has two children: Warren, born January 1870, and Irmie, August 1876. Mr. Strock belongs to the order of Masons and in politics is a republican.

JOHN BLOCHER, Franklin Grove, was born in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, February 23, 1833; son of John and Catherine (Bishop) Blocher. These parents had a family of five sons and six daughters, six of whom are living. John Blocher, the father, was an 1812 militiaman. Subsequently he moved from his farm near Buffalo, New York, to Gettysburg. The youth of our subject was spent on a farm until he was sixteen years of age, subsequently in a woolen factory. In 1852 he came to Lee Center, and after remaining a year returned east. In 1856 he married Ann Gear and came back to Franklin Grove. He

began in the daguerreotype business, which he followed till 1869, when he began the "Reporter." In 1872 Mrs. Blocher died, leaving four children to mourn her loss. Their names are William, Flora, John H. and Charles. In 1875 Mr. Blocher was married to Elizabeth Wattles. Their issue are two: Claude and Ella. Mr. Blocher is a member of the Presbyterian church, as was his first wife, his present wife being a Methodist. He is a republican, and belongs to the order of Odd-Fellows.

LOUIS M. BLAISDELL (deceased) was born in Kennebec county, Maine. His father was a farmer and ship-builder. Three of his father's family grew to maturity, the youngest of whom was Louis. None of the family are now living. Our subject left his home when quite young, for his health. He was in the south, Chicago, and in 1843 came to St. Charles, Illinois, and began in the sale of dry-goods. In December, 1847, he married Rosalind Durant, who came with her mother and two brothers from Vermont to St. Charles in 1845. Mr. Blaisdell removed with his family to Franklin Grove in 1854. Here he began in the lumber business, and subsequently dealt in grain. His house, on Spring street, was one of the finest in the "new town" of Franklin. Here his family are now living. Mr. Blaisdell was successful in business. At the time of his death (March 1863) he owned a 160 acre farm in Bradford township, besides considerable property in the village of Franklin Grove. His family are Louis, born June 1850; Alice, March 1857; and Rosalind, November 1861. Mr. Blaisdell was of Scotch descent; belonged to the order of Masons, and was a republican. Mrs. Blaisdell's mother's father was from Rhode Island; English descent. Her mother was born in 1798; her father in 1800.

OSCAR G. SMITH, grain dealer, Franklin Grove, was born in Frostburg, Alleghany county, Maryland, September 17, 1850. His parents are Joseph E. and Henrietta (Merrill) Smith. The former came from Hesse-Cassel, Germany, when he was sixteen years of age. Of a family of nine only four live, two sons and two daughters. The family came west in 1852 and settled in South Dixon, Lee county, where they have since lived. In 1874 Oscar Smith married Margaret C. Burket, of Lee county. Their issue are Mabel, born July 6, 1875 (deceased July 3, 1876), and Walter Lee, January 1878. In 1877 Mr. Smith sold his farm of 130 acres, in Nachusa township, for \$7,000, and engaged in the grain-buying business, at first at Dixon with Captain Dysart, and since 1878 in Franklin Grove. The same year he bought the Williams warehouse property for \$1,600, and in 1879 built his new warehouse at a further cost of about \$1,400. In the spring of 1881 Mr. Smith entered into partnership with Robert C. Filson, who was born in Franklin county, Pennsylvania, in 1847. He is the son of

Samuel and Mary E. (Miller) Filson, who had a family of four. The father died in August 1863. Robert Filson came to Lee county in 1870; was married in 1872, to Nancy J. Shorror, by whom he has four children: William S., Mary E., Minnie V. and Edwin C.

JOSHUA LAHMAN, farmer, was born June 1839, in Washington county, Maryland, into which his parents moved from Adams county, Pennsylvania, a few years before. He is the son of Christian and Elizabeth (Emmert) Lahman. He was reared a farmer. In 1843 he came with his parents to Franklin Grove. In September, 1861, he enlisted in the 34th Ill. Inf., Co. C. He was in service two years; was wounded in the arm and thigh at Murfreesboro, Tennessee; was sent to the hospital at Cincinnati, where he remained nearly six months; he was mustered out June 13, 1863. For two years after the war Mr. Lahman walked on crutches, and thinking that he would never recover the use of his limbs he learned harness-making. Three years he ran a harness shop in Iowa; he was there married to Hannah M. Batscheltt. She was born in Illinois, but went to Iowa when but ten years of age. In 1868 our subject came back to Lee county and began farming. He now owns 240 acres in Secs. 11 and 12, T. 21, China. In 1879 he built a fine brick house. He has a family of four children: Edgar R., born October 11, 1867; Clifford E., February 8, 1869; Elizabeth, July 22, 1875, and Clara F., October 19, 1877.

JOSEPH LAHMAN, farmer, Franklin Grove, the oldest member of one of the most prominent families in this part of Lee county, was born January 24, 1833, in Adams county, Pennsylvania. His parents, Christian Lahman and Elizabeth Emmert, were both of German ancestry. Two Lahman brothers settled in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, about 1700. In 1843 Christian Lahman and his family settled on the north side of Franklin Grove, nearly opposite the Dunkard church, on the place now owned by David Lahman, his son. In 1856 Joseph Lahman married Lorenda Diehl, who died April 28, 1879, leaving five sons and three daughters, the fruits of their married life: Fremont D., born November 1856; Oliver D., April 1858; Florence J., May 1860; Roscoe D., July 1862; Frank E., December 1864; Ella J., January 1868; Charles E., January 1872; Grace, May 1874; In February of 1881 Mr. Lahman was married, in Pennsylvania, to Mrs. Susan B. Gitt, of Adams county. Both belonged to the German Baptist church, in which Mr. Lahman is an ordained elder. He owns about 800 acres of land in Lee and Ogle counties, besides about 400 acres in Iowa. He is living a little west of the village of Franklin Grove, on the S.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 2, T. 21, where Lockwood Minor first settled. Here Mr. Lahman has lived for about fifteen years. Previous to this Mr. Lahman ran a mill on the creek for about sixteen years.



GEORGE W. HEWITT, M.D. (deceased), was born in Middleburg, Franklin county, Pennsylvania, December 23, 1830. He was the son of G. W. and Margaret (Conkleton) Hewitt, to whom were born four sons and three daughters. His medical studies were pursued under Dr. Samuel Chew, of Baltimore. At the same time he attended lectures at the University of Maryland, where he graduated in 1854. On the first of May of the same year he settled to practice medicine at Franklin Grove. Early in his practice he took a high rank in his profession. In 1871 he was appointed a delegate from the Illinois State Medical Society to the American Medical Association. During the late war Dr. Hewitt served as surgeon in 34th reg. Ill. Vols. He was on the staff of Col. Kirk when he was promoted to brigadier general, with whom he served for some time as brigadier surgeon. He was uncompromisingly devoted to his profession; he was a member of the American Medical Association, and an honorary member of the California Medical Society. In the best sense of the word the doctor was a philanthropist, ever anxious to avail himself of every opportunity to acknowledge the common brotherhood of humanity and fatherhood of God. In accordance with his convictions, and as a means to the end he had in view, he united with the Masonic fraternity. He was made a Master Mason at Lee Center, August 30, 1857; took his chapter degrees at DeKalb, August 11, 1859, and received his commandery degrees at Sycamore, May 9, 1866. He was a charter member of Franklin Lodge, No. 264, also of Nathan Whitney Chapter, and at his death was an active member of the commandery at Dixon. On September 25, 1856, he was married to Miss Caroline Davis Miller, with whom he lived until November 19, 1863, when she died, leaving him two sons, aged five and three years respectively. During the last illness of his lamented wife she and the doctor were together received into the Presbyterian church on their profession of faith. On September 1, 1879, a team which Dr. Hewitt was driving ran away with him, throwing him out against a creek bridge and precipitating him into a creek twenty feet below. He received injuries in this fall from which he only partially recovered. October, 1880, he received his first stroke of paralysis; the second, January 5, 1881, caused his death on the 12th of the same month. Henry M. Hewitt, eldest son of the above, was born August 24, 1857, in Franklin Grove, Lee county. He received his preparatory education at Normal and Evanston, Illinois; graduated from Rush Medical College, Chicago, Illinois; and after this attended medical schools in the city of New York and on the continent of Europe. In September, 1879, he returned to his home at Franklin Grove, where he is now practicing medicine. His brother, George W.



Hewitt, born July 31, 1859, is in the Union Law School, of Chicago, from which he expects to graduate in 1882.

JOHN LEAKE, farmer, retired, was born in Leicestershire, England, April 17, 1808. His father, William Leake, and mother, Clarissa (Chapman), daughter of Daniel Chapman, were also natives of England, and there died. His grandparents on his father's side were William and Mary Leake, also of English birth and burial. Mr. Leake was raised a son of toil in the true sense of that word. Farming has occupied his time in chief, yet after arriving at manhood he also engaged in milling. He was married December 2, 1836, to Miss Hannah Skermer, daughter of Samuel and Mary (Cooper) Skermer, both of English birth. Mrs. Leake is one of those women of industry for which old England is so noted. This union has been blessed with six children: Clarissa, Mary A., William, Susanah, John H. and Joseph T. Influenced by the flattering reports from America sent them by relatives, Mr. and Mrs. Leake also set sail about September 1, 1843, on the sailing-vessel Garrick, commanded by Capt. Kiddy. After about a month's voyage they reached Chicago, where Mr. Leake contracted with John B. Tinker to convey self, family and baggage at a low rate to Dixon's Ferry. Arrived here Mr. and Mrs. Leake immediately began the work of the pioneer in the southwest corner of what is now China township, where they still live. They have become in good circumstances and good standing in the community.

WILLIAM GRAVES, farmer and stock raiser, Franklin Grove, is a son of William and Sarah M. (Bostwick) Graves, and was born in the State of New York, February 19, 1839. He was reared on a farm, with only such school advantages as were afforded in his boyhood days. In 1853, in company with his mother, one brother and one sister, he came to Illinois, and settled for a short time in Newark, Kendall county, Illinois, but in November, 1854, they came to Lee county, and settled permanently in China township, on Sec. 15, T. 21, R. 10, where our subject now owns a fine farm of 200 acres of well improved land. February 15, 1870, he married Miss Martha A., daughter of Evans C. and Harriett A. (Whitmore) Thomas, of Franklin Grove, Lee county, Illinois. She was born March 17, 1848. They are the parents of two children living, Grace and Louis C. Mr. Graves is now actively engaged in stock raising as well as farming. He is one of the live men of Lee county, and takes an active part in any enterprise that tends to the mutual improvement of his own interest or that of the community in which he lives.

## VIOLA TOWNSHIP.

The voters of T. 38 N., R. 1 E., met at the house of Moses Van Campen on the 2d of April, 1861, and nominated Abram Van Campen clerk pro tem, and Simeon Cole moderator. They being duly elected, proceeded to the business of organizing the town of Viola. Polls opened and the following first town officers were duly elected. Fifty-two ballots were cast, a majority being: for supervisor, Samuel L. Butler; assessor, Simeon Cole; town clerk, Samuel Vasburgh; constable and collector, John Melugin; justice of the peace, Henry Marsh; commissioners of highways, William Holdren, Ralph E. Ford, and Moses B. Van Campen; for poor-master, Evins Adrian, and for pound-master, John Melugin. The names proposed for the town, Butler, Elba, and Eldorado. Previous to this the town was called Stockton, the name being given on account of the large numbers of stock being herded by Robert M. Piele, and others who were also on the creeks with large herds of cattle. The first town officers were sworn in and their bonds given to the name of Stockton.

At a meeting of highway commissioners of the towns of Brooklyn, and Stockton, held May 11, 1861, for the purpose of dividing road on the line between towns thirty-seven and thirty-eight, or very soon after, the name of this township was changed to Viola, the names proposed at the previous meeting having been found to conflict with other township names in the state.

The soil of this township is a rich loam, having a sand and gravel subsoil at a depth of from seven to fifteen feet; the drainage is by wide and deep ditches leading toward and through the inlet swamp. The surface is, for two miles on the east and the same on the south, rolling; the balance that is tillable is flat and even in surface. About three-quarters of this township is under cultivation; the remaining quarter is known as the inlet swamp.

The beautiful natural grove situated in the southeast corner of Viola township, half a mile west and same distance north of the southeast corner, is divided into lots of from 1 to 60 acres. It contains about 320 acres. In an early day, or when first settled, it was called Guthrie's Grove, after William Guthrie, its first settler, but is now called and is marked on most maps as Little Melugin Grove. In early times it was sometimes called Lawton's Grove, after William Lawton, who was an early settler. The Big Melugin is also a beautiful natural grove, partly in Brooklyn township, and one half or more in Viola, there being about one section or 640 acres in Viola. This is also divided up into grove lots of 3 to more acres.

Willow creek is the only natural water stream in Viola township. There are two other "runs" called dry runs, water being in them only at wet seasons of the year. These all empty into the inlet swamp. The wells of this township are of an exceptionally pure and cool nature and reached at a depth of from ten to thirty feet, giving always a plentiful supply of this needed article. This township was first settled in 1834 at Guthrie, or as it is now called Little Melugin Grove, by William Guthrie. The first buildings were put there on the extreme south end of the grove and built by William Guthrie; the first wagon roads were anywhere to the nearest point over the then vast and open prairie, but soon after settlement and organization they were laid out on section lines, or mostly so by the elected highway commissioners. The north and south roads ran through the township, the east and west only a part of the way through, partly on account of the inlet swamp.

Among the first white persons and settlers about the groves (as these towns were first settled there) was David Town, then Dick Allen, then Zach. Melugin, after whom the groves in Viola and Brooklyn were named, then William Guthrie, who also named the small grove. After these came John Gilmore, William Lawton, who sold to Walter Little. Then they began to come in faster, among those a little later being Evins Adrian, who perhaps has made himself more felt than any of his predecessors in this township and Lee county.

There are several large farmers in this township; but among the most noted are Evins Adrian, with his 1300 acre homestead and miles of osage hedge fence and herds of fine blooded stock reared by him. Mr. Adrian is not a large purchaser of stock except to improve his already high grade. He is a stock raiser and seller, doing all business on his own premises. Mr. H. B. Cobb is also an extensive stock man in this township. He not only raises large droves, but is also an extensive buyer and shipper of large bunches of hogs as well as cattle.

About four years ago Mr. Evins Adrian lost one of his large barns by fire. It was 42x60 in size, with a fine basement for stock, and had just been filled with hay. In it was also stored a lot of farm tools, harness, and some valuable live-stock. It was the work of an incendiary; the total loss was about \$5,000. He rebuilt, and had the new barn ready for occupancy in about thirty days after the burning.

#### SCHOOLS.

There are six school buildings in this township, and another contemplated this fall. The cost of these was from \$400 to \$600 each. There are seven school districts in Viola, and schools are held from six to nine months a year in each. The school fund is \$7,496.

OFFICERS.

Viola's present town officers are: supervisor, James Adrian; town clerk, Rufus Johnson; assessor, Calvin Johnson; collector, Robert Hutchinson; commissioners of highways, Joseph Merrill, three years; Alexander Harper, two years; Abram Bennett, one year; justices of the peace, Alexander Harper and Truman Johnson; constables, Rufus Johnson and William H. Bennett; school trustees, A. J. Ross, three years; Truman Johnson, two years; James Taylor, one year; and school treasurer, Calvin Johnson. The number of votes polled at the 1881 election was 130.

Mr. Evins Adrian was the first person married living in Viola, to widow Smith, formerly Marrilla Goodale. The next was William Happ, who married a Miss Smith, of Smith's Grove. He afterward in a spree stabbed his wife, who died. Truman Johnson's was probably the third marriage, to Miss Mary Melugin.

The first adult person who died in this township was Walter Little, grandfather of the present sheriff of Lee county. An infant child of William Lawton's died previously. Mrs. Curtis Lathrop and Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Little also died in the early history of Lee county. The first birth in this township was a child to William Lawton, which died in its infancy.

One mark of prosperity in this township is its large and intelligent family records, giving the residents not only great present aid, but providing for the future management of the affairs of this vicinity.

In the early history of Viola township, long before Lee county was set off, roaming bands of Indians from several tribes inhabited the beautiful groves, there being those now living among its citizens who have played with the children of the red-men, and were eye witnesses to the great council and last payment in Illinois of the Indians by the government at the grove at Shabbona.

BIOGRAPHICAL.

M. W. HARRINGTON, farmer, Compton, removed with his parents when four years old from Grand Isle county, Vermont, and located at Joliet, Will county, Illinois. He was born in Grand Isle county, Vermont, May 21, 1835. His father, at an advanced age, is still living. In 1862 he removed to Viola, Lee county, and on August 13, 1862, enlisted in Co. E, 100th Ill. Vol. Inf., and remained eighteen months. He was wounded in the battle of Chickamauga, September 19, 1863, which disabled him for service, and he was honorably discharged. He married, July 2, 1858, Mary E. Cole. They have three children: Charlie E., Willie M., Oric C., and one adopted child, Carrie A. He



has a good and well managed farm of 120 acres, and is a representative farmer. In politics he is republican.

CATHARINE (JOHNSON) GRAY, widow of Henry W. Gray, farmer, Compton, was born in Sussex county, New Jersey, September 1826. Her youth was spent in New Jersey and Pennsylvania, where she resided with her parents. They came to Luzerne county, Pennsylvania, in 1830, where they remained until she was twenty-five years of age. In 1855 she removed to Illinois, locating in Lee county. She is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. In 1844 she was married to Henry W. Gray. She has five children living, three having died since her husband's death, which occurred twenty-two years ago. Her three sons at home, Emory, James, and Lewis, are working 160 acres. They also thresh and shell grain during the season.

WILLIAM W. GILMORE, farmer, Compton, born in Brooklyn township, Lee county, November 8, 1835, was the second white child born in the grove. His mother is living. He had the common school advantages, such as could be obtained in his pioneer youth. Nearly all his life has been spent near his birthplace. Mr. Gilmore has held local town offices for several terms, and given good satisfaction. He is a chapter Mason, a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and a democrat in politics. He was married January 15, 1856, to Regina Carnahan. They have five children: Jennie, now Mrs. Chas. Guffin, of Compton; John, Ida, Hattie, and Floy. He has a 255 acre farm, well managed, and is building a residence at Compton, where he will remove. He was engaged during considerable of his life in the dry-goods and general store business, also in agricultural and hardware, in Melugin's Grove and at Mendota. Mr. John Gilmore and Hannah, his wife, father and mother of the subject of this sketch, were the next settlers, after Zachariah Melugin, at the grove, and nearly their entire life has been spent at or near their early settlement. They have been identified with the growth and prosperity of Lee county for near half a century, and have endeared themselves to all who have known them. Mr. J. Gilmore was a Master Mason in New York, and upon his removal west he was presented with a valuable token of jewels by his comrades. They are now the heirlooms of Mr. W. W. Gilmore. When Mr. John Gilmore first settled he had \$40 and an old team, which was all he possessed.

MARGARETTA (HANNAN) BARR, widow of John Barr, farmer, Compton, came to America in 1850. She landed at the city of New York, and came directly to Illinois, locating in Lee county. She was born in county Antrim, Ireland, in May 1833. She received common school advantages in her native country. Her youth, till seventeen, was spent there. She was married May 13, 1851, to John Barr, who died in the

spring of 1881, leaving herself and nine children. She has a 203 acre farm, which the youngest son, Alexander, manages for her. It is well stocked and cultivated. The other children are Martha, Jane, James, Robert, William, Maggie, Mary, and Ellen. Mary, Ellen and Alexander are at home and are the only members of the family unmarried.

MOSES B. VAN CAMPEN, farmer, Compton, landed in Illinois on April 13, 1854, locating in Lee county. He was born in Warren county, New Jersey, October 24, 1816. His mother lived till over ninety years of age. His father died when young Moses was but ten years of age. He received common school advantages in his native state, where he lived till twenty-four years of age on a wooded farm. In 1840 he moved to Pennsylvania and commenced the clearing of a new farm, and remained there fourteen years. He was married November 30, 1844, to Eliza Ann Winters. They have four children living. He has now a homestead in Melugin of twenty-five acres. Mr. Van Campen holds certificates, bearing date March 29, 1826, from his teacher, Benjamin Depue, given at Pahaquarry, New Jersey, which are quite interesting relics of his early school days. In 1854 he began in this county with only a yoke of oxen and good health. The first town meeting and the first election in Viola were held in his house. The first school in district No. 3 was held for three terms in his house, with no charge for its use. Mr. Van Campen has been largely identified with his township, and is among the most respected of her citizens. He is a Jackson democrat. His children are Cynthia, James, Emanuel and Cecilia. His son Emanuel manages the homestead and a rented farm, and is one of the valued young men of his township.

JOHN M. ABELL, farmer and carpenter, Compton, was born at St. Charles, Kane county, Illinois, December 25, 1844. His mother is still living. Mr. Abell has followed the carpenter business for seven years till the past year. In 1864 he enlisted in the artillery service, Battery G, 2d reg., and remained till the close of the war. He is a member of the United Brethren church, and in politics a republican. He married, March 11, 1869, Leonora Lazarus, and they have four children: Charley, Phillip, Harry, and Laura. He has a 143 acre farm, under good cultivation. Mr. Abell has lived in Viola thirty-six years.

C. F. VAN PATTEN, farmer, Steward, came to Shabbona, De Kalb county, Illinois, in 1856, where he lived eleven years. He was born in Glenville, Schenectady county, New York, January 6, 1826, and there received common school advantages. His youth and early manhood were spent at home on the farm. In 1868 he moved from De Kalb county to Viola. He has held several local town offices. He is a leading member of the Methodist Episcopal society of the flats. He was married October 22, 1855, to Mary Jane Young. They have fourteen children living, one

dead. He has a 320 acre farm, well managed and well stocked. The family of Mr. Van Patten are worthy of mention, being of more than usual intelligence, and all standing high in the estimation of their neighbors.

JOSEPH MERRILL, farmer, Compton, was born in Hartford township, Licking county, Ohio, February 14, 1831. His youth and manhood, till thirty-five years old, was spent in Ohio at the blacksmith trade. He moved to Viola in 1866. He is a Chapter Mason, and in politics a democrat. He married, in the summer of 1853, Sarah J. Noe, who died March 28, 1869. He was again married January 31, 1869, to Lydia J. Johnson, widow of Alfonso Johnson. He has six children, three by first and three by second marriage. They have a fine large farm, formerly the property of A. Johnson.

B. F. JOHNSON, farmer, Compton, was born in Kane county, Illinois, March 4, 1846. He had a common school education, mostly received in Lee county. His youth till about six was spent in Kane county, at which time he was brought to Viola, Lee county. In the spring of 1865 he enlisted in Co. I, 156th Ill. Inf., remaining till the close of the war. In politics he is a republican. He married, February 24, 1877, Arrilla Compton. They have two children, Lewis Emory, and Andrew. He has a 300 acre farm, well stocked and cultivated. Mr. Johnson was mining in Montana territory for six years, from 1870 to 1876, with more than ordinary success. The last year took out over \$26,000. Mr. Johnson's family were the first settlers on the prairie in Viola township.

EVINS ADRIAN, stock raiser and farmer, Compton, the genial proprietor of the Glenwood farm, was born in county Antrim, Ireland, October 15, 1815, and received a portion of his education in that country and partly in Illinois and New York. His youth till about eighteen was spent in Ireland on a farm. In 1833 he came to America, landing in Quebec, Canada, where he remained about two years. He then went to Erie county, New York, and remained about two years, getting \$7 per month wages, when he removed and settled in Illinois, before Lee county was set off or organized. He was married October 1840, to Mrs. Marilla Smith (widow of Rev. George Smith). She died in February 1857, and he was again married in July 1857, to Mary Ann Agler. He has nine children, six by the first and three by the second marriage. His magnificent homestead contains 1300 acres. Mr. Adrian is an aggressive farmer and buys but little stock, and that only to improve his herds. He usually keeps on hand 200 head of cattle, 300 sheep, 100 hogs, besides horses and mules sufficient to work and manage his farm. He feeds all grain raised, and is a large purchaser of corn from the adjoining farms. He is selling every year



S. F. MILLS.





large lots of stock, weighing and doing all business at home, having all conveniences for so doing. In an early day he chopped and split rails at fifty cents per hundred, and has come up to his now independent and commanding position only by energy, self-sacrifice, and an indomitable will. His daughters, Emma, Marrilla and Sarah, also his sons, John and Willie, deserve mention, as they have been and are now largely interested and worthy helps to their father in his vast undertakings, and now in the shadow of his life remain to cheer and assist him through. Mr. Adrian has not only done well for himself and family, but is largely interested in the growth and prosperity of his township, giving liberally and rendering mature advice in school, road, and other improvements. He has honored his township by being their supervisor several terms.

H. B. COBB, farmer and stock buyer and shipper, Steward, was born in Tallard, Connecticut, November 27, 1834. His youth till sixteen was spent in his native state at home. When sixteen years of age he went to Massachusetts and engaged in a cotton-mill, and remained till nineteen, and then came west, locating first at Lamoille, Bureau county, Illinois. Here he worked in a nursery for Samuel Edwards, at \$13 per month. However, he soon after went at regular farming, living there about four years. In the spring of 1856 he removed to Lee county. Mr. Cobb had three brothers in the late civil war. He has been supervisor of Viola four years, township treasurer about fifteen years. He is a Mason and a republican. He was married May 15, 1859, to Ellen C. Beamer. They have five children: Minnie J., Lillie A., George H., Flora E. and Laura L. He has a 490 acre homestead, over 900 acres in Viola township, and a joint farm in Brooklyn of 110 acres. Mr. Cobb has one of the finest farm residences in Lee county, and few equal it anywhere, being first-class in all its appointments. His farm is first-class, well managed, and well watered. He keeps about 250 cattle, on an average, all the time, also other fine stock. Mr. Cobb is one of the largest stock raisers and shippers of Lee county, and among the most popular and energetic farmers.

CUMMINGS NOE, farmer, Early Dawn, was born in Caldwell, Essex county, New Jersey, July 20, 1809. He had common school advantages partly in New Jersey and partly in Ohio, going to school part of two winters in a log school-house without a pane of glass in the building, a log being left out and oiled paper pasted over the opening to admit light and keep out the wind. His youth till nine years of age was spent in New Jersey. About 1817 he moved with his parents to Franklin county, Ohio, near Columbus, and there remained about two years, when he again removed to Licking county. His mother died in Franklin county, and he lived with a brother-in-law three years near

Columbus. He then returned to Licking and lived with his brother, adjoining his father's place, about three years. In the fall of 1834 he removed to Illinois, locating and remaining a year in Tazewell county, then to Franklin, Jo Daviess county, before Lee county was set off, remaining over a year, and then to Ogle county for eight years, at the end of which time he came to Lee county, living in Willow creek for many years. In 1878 he came to Viola. His sons William and Amos enlisted in the summer of 1862 in Co. B, 27th Ill. Vol. Inf. They were in the battle at Vicksburg that season. They contracted disease from which both died, never returning. Mr. Noe is a member of the United Brethren church, and is anti-Masonic in politics. He was married April 1, 1830, to Martha Parkhurst. They have four children living (eight deceased). He has a 160-acre homestead, well stocked and managed. Mr. Noe came to Illinois in company with an elder brother. Each had a wife and two children in a wagon. All their capital was health and \$10 in money, which not being current had to be returned to Ohio for exchange, which took many weeks.

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### ASHTON TOWNSHIP.

This town is located in the north tier of townships. It is one-half the size of a congressional township, being six miles from east to west and three miles from north to south. It originally formed a part of Bradford township. The surface is for the most part undulating. Stone suitable for building purposes abounds in considerable quantities. The finest quarry is just north of the village of Ashton, which is said to be equal in quality to any in northern Illinois for building.

The first person to locate in the township was Erastus Anderson, in 1848. He was followed in a few weeks after by his brother Timothy, their father coming in December of the same year. At that time there were only four houses to be seen, and part of these were twenty miles distant. In 1849 a man by the name of Hubbard settled in the west part of the township. In 1852 Daniel Suter located near the site of the German Baptist church, and H. Saunders farther to the west. These comprise most of the settlers of what is now Ashton township prior to the location of the Northwestern railroad in 1854.

The first settlers of Ashton township say not a tree was to be seen nearer than the grove, at what is now Franklin; that game was plenty, that ducks, geese and sandhill cranes reared their young here in the swamps, and that chasing the prairie wolf was of frequent occurrence. Sheep had to be closely guarded. Prairie fires sometimes broke out, sweeping the grass, which was very abundant, and sometimes the build-

ings and crops of the pioneers, leaving behind a black and desolate waste.

The land of Ashton township was bought principally by speculators about the time the first settlers made their appearance. They rated it from \$5 to \$10 per acre. Those with small means settled farther from the railroads, where land could be had for less money. Ashton township is yet owned largely in large farms, and worked by tenants.

In 1854 emigrants began to come in from every quarter and located in Ashton township. In that year the first house was built by James L. Bates, where the village of Ashton now is. The town was laid out in 1855. J. L. Bates kept the first store here. The first warehouse was erected in the latter part of 1854, and in this was kept the first post-office. The first blacksmith shop was erected in 1855, by S. M. Kifnes.

The first church erected was the Methodist Episcopal, in 1863. A lot was offered, free of charge, to the church society which would erect the first building in the village. The Methodist Episcopal people, not feeling themselves able to build a durable church, erected a temporary structure to secure the lot till such time as they were able to build a durable church. The second church was erected by the Free Methodists in 1864. This is said to have been the first church of the kind in the state. The society was first organized in Ogle county, four miles north of Ashton, by J. G. Terrol, in 1860, but for convenience the society was divided and a church built in Ashton. Among the prominent members at the time of its organization were Charles Butolpk, Jonathan Dake, Sidney and Melville Beach, Sylvester Forbes, Isaac Martin, Samuel Walker, James Reed, William Martin, their wives and others. Rev. Terrol was followed by Rev. W. Underwood. The society at one time, shortly after its organization, numbered ninety active members. It now numbers twenty-five. It is in a flourishing condition. The society has kept in good running order a Sunday-school most of the time. It has now united its Sunday-school with that of the Presbyterians. Its church principles are absolute freedom and strong opposition to all secret societies.

The third church erected here was by the Catholics, in 1866. Its members are for the most part Germans, and number about fifty active communicants.

The Christian church was built in 1868. The prime leaders were F. Nettleton, J. P. Taylor, and Peter Plantz. It was organized with fifteen members. It first held its meetings in the school-house. The society flourished with the other societies of the town till within the past two years, when misfortunes beyond its control befell it, but it is now in a fair way to revive and recover its former standing.



The German Baptists built their present church house one fourth of a mile south of town, in 1866. Its membership at the present is something more than forty, and is in a flourishing condition. The cemetery connected with this church is on a beautiful rising ground.

The Presbyterian church was erected in 1877. The building committee were Messrs. Mills, Petrie and Polluck. At the time of organization its membership was fourteen. The leading members were Griffith, Hutson, and Brewer. The first minister was Rev. S. Vale; present pastor, Rev. Jordan. The present elders are S. F. Mills and J. Brewer. The society is in good condition.

The Lutheran society holds its meetings in the Presbyterian church.

The Masons and Odd-Fellows each have a society here. The former was organized in 1862, and is prosperous. The latter was organized in 1867, and though not so numerous in members is enjoying a good degree of prosperity.

Temperance orders of various kinds have sprung up at various intervals, only to be lost sight of and suffered to die.

Ashton boasts of the finest school building in the county. It is a stone edifice erected at a cost of \$28,000. The school employs six teachers.

#### THE ASHTON BANK.

This bank was opened by Mills & Petrie in 1867. During its existence it has never closed its doors. During the month of June, 1881, it received checks amounting to over \$80,000, the greater part of which was for produce shipped from this point.

Ashton has several times been visited with very destructive fires for a town of its size. The first fire of note was in 1863. The grain elevator was burned, and the loss was estimated at \$2,000. Next, the Ashton flouring mill burned in 1863; loss, \$60,000. In 1871 the railroad property, which consisted of two tanks, the depot and a coal-house, in which were stored 1,200 tons of coal; in addition to the railroad property, a lumber yard and four dwelling houses were burned, the estimated loss being \$75,000. This fire originated in the coal-house. In 1874 the hay-press and elevator were burned; a loss of \$30,000. Besides these fires named there have been numerous smaller ones.

At the present time Ashton has three elevators, two hotels, and flouring mill, six churches and seven congregations, one bank, of which Mills & Petrie are the sole proprietors, and several very good stores for a country town. The Masons and Odd-Fellows are the only secret societies.

There has been but one tragedy in the township. The perpetrator of the heinous crime of wife-poisoning was a man by the name of

McGee. He was a minister stationed at Ashton. It seems the villain had become enamored of another besides his wife, and not possessing moral courage sufficient to free himself from the matrimonial bonds in an honorable way, resorted to poison as a means of putting his wife out of the way. Strichnine was his agent; this he gave to his wife in minute quantities for some time. The doctor was summoned, but not suspecting the treacherous villainy that was being practiced, did not discover what had been done till a short time before she died. The fatal dose was administered by him just before he repaired to the church to preach. He was arrested and incarcerated in the county jail. He then thought to place his crime upon his fourteen-year-old daughter by making her sign a paper stating that she had poisoned her mother. In this he failed. He was tried, convicted and sent to the state penitentiary for a term of fourteen years. His wife was much loved and respected by the community, as are his children, and no one reflects on them the villainy over which they had no control, but all are filled with sympathy for their misfortune.

W. A. PETRIE, of the firm of Petrie & Mills, bankers, Ashton, was born in 1842, near Syracuse, New York, and is the son of Rudolph and Elizabeth (Vrooman) Petrie, natives of New York. His parents were of German descent, and his maternal grandfather was captain of a fort in the pioneer times of New York, and was killed and scalped by the Indians; and a son was also killed and mutilated in the most horrible manner. The Vroomans are an old established family of New York. W. A. Petrie received a fair education and came to Lee county in 1858, and went into partnership with his present partner, Mr. S. F. Mills. Mr. Mills is a native of New York, born in 1830 near Utica, and is the son of Loran A. and E. (Petrie) Mills, natives of New York. Mr. Mills' father was colonel of the state militia. His father was of Scotch extraction, his mother of English descent. He came to Ashton in 1854 and engaged in the grain and lumber trade and was joined by Mr. Petrie in 1858. In 1861 they gave up the grain and lumber trade and engaged in the mercantile trade, and in one year sold \$109,000 worth of goods, their yearly average being \$80,000. In 1867 they quit the mercantile business and opened a private banking house in Ashton, in which business they still remain. They were both married in 1879 at the same ceremony: Mr. Petrie to Sarah E. Howard, daughter of William and Mary Howard, natives of England, who emigrated to America in 1856 and settled in Ohio, and Mr. Mills to Louisa Getman, daughter of Daniel and Mary (Vrooman) Getman, natives of New York. They live in the same house on a beautiful farm one mile west of Ashton. Mr. Petrie has held the office of notary public for twelve years, and is elected for four years more. He

has been trustee of the township four years and still holds the office, and was supervisor for two years. They constitute a firm of live business men, who have the business confidence of the community.

SIDNEY BEACH, farmer and stock raiser, Ashton, was born in Delaware county, Ohio, in 1827, and is the son of Israel and Roda (Lockwood) Beach, natives of New York. The former was by trade a shoemaker. They settled in Ohio in 1822 and engaged in the business of farming, which pursuit they followed the remainder of their lives. They were members of the Presbyterian church. Israel Beach served in the war of 1812 as drummer. Sidney Beach remained in Ohio till he was fifteen years old, then came to Ogle county, Illinois, with an older sister, where he remained three years and accumulated some property, which he lost; hence he says his "first three years in Illinois were spent in getting experience." He returned to Ohio when eighteen, but after a lapse of three years returned to Ogle county and began trading in cattle as much as he was able, which proved to be quite lucrative. Then he speculated in land to some extent. In 1856 he was married to Sarah Vandermark, daughter of Daniel and Anna Vandermark, natives of Pennsylvania. By this marriage he has three children: Clement L., Jessie C. and Sidney. Mrs. Beach's father was of German descent and a button-maker by trade. Her mother was of English extraction and both were members of the Methodist Episcopal church. Mr. Beach owns 680 acres of good farming land. He markets some grain, but stock principally. He is a prominent republican, and was formerly a whig. He took an active part in raising recruits during the war. He and his wife are members of the Free Methodist church. He began life for himself with less than \$10, and what he now possesses is the result of his own industry.

JAMES KING, farmer, Ashton, was born in Merrimac county, New Hampshire, in 1821. His parents were John and Sarah (Hill) King, natives of New Hampshire and children of English parents. James' grandfather was Gen. Wolfe's aide-de-camp at the battle of Quebec. His parents came to Illinois, where they spent their last days at the residence of their son. Mr. King received but little educational training in his early youth. He emigrated to Illinois in 1854 and settled in Bradford township, where he remained till 1875 engaged in farming. Having sold his farm of 165 acres he moved to Ashton. He was married in 1849, to Rolana Barnard, daughter of Ezekiel and Judith (Sargent) Barnard. She was born in Warren county, New Hampshire. By this union he has three children: Almon E., Walter B. and Flora D. His two boys are at present engaged in the mercantile business in Redwood, Minnesota. Mr. King, like most men who came to Illinois in the time of its first settlement, had but little means, but by judicious



management and industry prospered. After selling his farm he has lived in Ashton, where he has a beautiful home and forty acres near the village. He has held the offices of commissioner and supervisor. In politics he is a staunch republican.

PETER PLANTZ, farmer, Ashton, was born in New York in 1805, and is the son of Richard and Maria Plantz, both of whom were of German descent, and members of the Lutheran church. Peter was educated in the common schools of his native state. He was married in New York, to Margret Putman, daughter of John and Catherine Putman, natives of New York, and members of the Dutch Reformed church; both were of Holland extraction. Mr. Plantz has by this coalition six children: Victor, Margret, Henry, Hannah, and Abraham. He came to Illinois in 1851 and settled in Ogle county, where he remained till 1856, when he came to Ashton, where he has since lived. Until recently he was engaged in farming, but has sold his farm and retired from business. He served three years as commissioner of highways. The success of Mr. Plantz is due wholly to his energy and industry. He and his wife are members of the Christian church. He has a comfortable home at Ashton, where he expects to enjoy the fruits of his former labors.

MELVILLE BEACH, farmer and stock raiser, Ashton, was born in Essex county, New Jersey, in 1812, and is the son of Israel and Roda (Lockwood) Beach, both natives of New Jersey. The former was a shoemaker by trade, and with his family emigrated to Ohio in 1822. He engaged in farming, which pursuit he followed the remainder of his life. He and his wife were devoted members of the Presbyterian faith. Israel Beach served in the war of 1812 as drummer. Melville received his education in the pioneer schools of Ohio, where he resided till 1852. He was married in 1851, to Eliza Scott, a native of Connecticut, and daughter of Cark and Flora (Beckley) Scott, who emigrated to Ohio in 1835, when she was six years old. Her parents were Presbyterian, and her father by trade was a button-maker, and raised a family of seven children. Mr. Melville Beach has a family of four children: Melville W., three years a student of Wheaton College; Melva E., music teacher, educated at Spring Abbey, Michigan, and Wheaton College; Cora C. and Esmarelda A. Mr. and Mrs. Beach have been members of the Free Methodist church since its organization here in 1860. Mr. Beach is one of the active members of the Free Methodist church at this place, having been class leader nearly all the time since its organization, as well as filling other offices of the church and Sunday-school at different intervals. In his early life he followed the trade of his father. Having previously purchased land in Lee county, he moved in 1852 with his family to Ogle county, where



he remained two years, and then came to Ashton, where he has since resided. He now owns a fine farm of 1273 acres, upon which he raises hogs and cattle, and owns a very pleasant home in the village of Ashton. He is a radical anti-secret-society and anti-slavery man, and a staunch republican.

RILEY PADDOCK, farmer, merchant and banker, Ashton, is a native of Ohio, born in 1810, and is the son of Ebenezer and Nancy Paddock, natives of Kentucky. They first settled in Butler county, Ohio, then in Clark county, of the same state, and subsequently emigrated to Vigo county, Indiana. Mrs. Paddock was a member of the Baptist faith. Riley Paddock received such educational training as was to be had in the pioneer schools of Ohio. He was married in Vigo county, Indiana, to Eliza Snoddy; she and her parents were natives of Kentucky. By this coalition he has four children: Bell Jane, Mary E., Victoria, and William E. The girls have all been students of Mount Morris Seminary, Illinois. William E. was educated at Jennings College, Aurora, Illinois, and is now engaged in the mercantile trade with his father, in Ashton. They deal in boots and shoes, and dry goods. Their trade amounts annually to about \$25,000. Mr. Paddock settled in Ogle county, Illinois, in 1837, where he remained till he came to Ashton. He began life with limited means; he has made farming his principal business. In 1872 he became one of the charter members of the First National Bank at Forest, Illinois, of which he has been, since its organization, one of its directors, and is now vice-president and director. He owns 300 acres of fine farming land, which he has well stocked, and 160 acres of Iowa land. He and his wife were formerly members of the Christian church. In politics he is a republican.

ERASTUS ANDERSON, farmer, Ashton, is a native of Canada West, and was born in 1824. He is the son of John H. and Martha (Morgan) Anderson; the former, a native of New York, emigrated with his father to Canada when sixteen years of age, where he grew up. He served as a British soldier in the war of 1812, and was in the battle of Lundy's Lane. In 1848 he came to Lee county, where he remained the balance of his life. Erastus Anderson's mother was a native of Canada, and died a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. Mr. Anderson came first to Michigan, where he remained till 1846, when he settled in Ogle county, where he lived till the spring of 1848, when he settled in the northeast part of Ashton township, where he still lives. He was married in 1847, to Mary Halverd, a native of Norway, by whom he has had two children: Roda A., now Mrs. W. M. F. Clark, and John H. Mr. Anderson's education is only such as he has been able to obtain in active business. He began life for himself by working at whatever he could earn a penny, and so continued till he had saved enough to buy

eighty acres of land; then he began farming for himself. In politics he has always been a republican. Erastus Anderson's grandfather was a ship-carpenter by trade, a Scotchman by birth, and emigrated to Canada. His paternal grandmother by birth was a German; his maternal grandmother's people formerly came from Ireland. Mr. Anderson has a fine farm two and one-half miles northeast of Ashton. It is well improved and well stocked.

HENRY SAUNDERS, jr., farmer and stock raiser, Ashton, is a native of Hardin county, Pennsylvania, born in 1826, and is the son of Henry and Mary (Buck) Saunders, both natives of Pennsylvania, and of German extraction, and farmers by trade. They left to their children a handsome property, but owing to the course pursued by the administrators it was all lost and their children became penniless. H. Saunders, sr., was captain of the state militia. By faith he was a Catholic. H. Saunders, jr., came to Illinois in 1845, and remained one year, then returned to his native state, and came again to Illinois after an absence of almost two years. He was married in 1851, to Rachel Morgan, a native of Illinois, daughter of Edward and Nancy Morgan, both natives of Ohio. They have nine children: Winfield B., Joseph J. F., Jerome (deceased), Alice (deceased), Jane, John, Edward, Lucy, and Harry L. He has an excellent farm of 286 acres, situated two miles west of Ashton, which is well improved and well stocked. He and his wife are not members of any christian sect, but believe in the practice of christian principles. Formerly he was a republican, but is now a democrat.

A. A. HECKART, grain buyer, Ashton, is a native of Pennsylvania, and a son of Peter and Elizabeth Heckart, both natives of Pennsylvania, but now living one half mile north of the village of Ashton. A. A. Heckart was born in 1844. He received a good common school education. He first engaged in the mercantile business in Ashton. He is now employed at Ashton by George H. Taylor & Co., grain merchants, where he has been for several years. He was married in 1868, to Mary J. Colwell, of Iowa, and they have one child, Temperance. He served in the war of the rebellion, first in Co. B, 46th Ill. Vols., was wounded at Shiloh, and discharged from the service. Having recovered he again entered the service of his country in the 75th Ill. Vols., in Co. G. Altogether he served two years and ten months. In politics he is strictly republican. He is a member of the I.O.O.F. at Ashton.

JOHN A. ANDRUS, attorney, Ashton, is a native of New York, born in 1833, and is a son of Elim and Margaret (Mooney) Andrus, both natives of New York. John's grandfather, Benjamin Andrus, served in the revolutionary war. His literary education is that of the common school and the Holly Academy of New York. He graduated

in the Bryant & Stratton Commercial Business College, New York. He then read law for some time, and then came west and taught school in Michigan two years, and at Rochelle and Ashton each one year. He was engaged in the mercantile business for twelve years, and in farming for a time. In 1877 he was admitted to practice law in Michigan, and in 1878 was admitted to the bar in Illinois. He was examined before the appellate court at Chicago, in a class of forty-nine, seven of whom were rejected. He has since practiced in Ashton. He held the office of police justice in Ashton for four years. He and all his family, so far back as he can tell, have been members of the democratic party. He was married in 1861, to Rhoda A. Siple, daughter of John and Harriet Siple, of Ohio. They have two children: Dora A., a senior of the class of '82 of the University of Champaign, her course being that of literature and science. The second child is an infant.

### HAMILTON TOWNSHIP.

CONTRIBUTED BY WILLIAM B. ANDRESS.

At the time Lee county adopted township organization, in 1850, Hamilton embraced what is now Hamilton, East Grove, May, and the south half of Marion, and William B. Stuart was its first supervisor, he serving two years in that capacity, when R. B. Viele succeeded him for the next three years. In 1855 W. B. Stuart was again elected and continued in the office that and the following year. In 1856 the board of supervisors took off what is now the township of May, still leaving two and a half congressional townships in its territory. In 1859 Marion was organized, taking T. 20 N., R. 9 E. as its limits, thus again taking from Hamilton a half congressional township. In 1865 T. 19 N., R. 9 E. was organized, taking the name of East Grove, leaving Hamilton with only the territory of one congressional township, T. 19 N., R. 8 E. of the 4th P. M., and these are its present limits and it is the southwest corner town of Lee county.

### SETTLEMENT.

Prior to township organization, as adopted in 1850, within the present limits of Hamilton there were no settlers except the Indians, and none of the inhabitants can speak of exercising the right of suffrage at precincts, as some in other townships of earlier settlement do. From the best information the writer can obtain the first dwelling built in the limits of this town was by Charles or Ross Freeman on the S.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of Sec. 32, — the date not known, — which was afterward moved to another location and remodeled into a school-house. The first man to



build a house and make a home in this township was a German by the name of Jacob Pope, who came in 1854 and settled on the S.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of S.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 26. Morris Logue, from New Jersey, occupied the N.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of N.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 27, built a shanty and broke up his land in the same year, and the next season brought his family. David and John Knight came from Ohio also in 1854, and having purchased Sec. 35 at once began improvements. They boarded in Walnut that year, but in 1855 erected a house on their land. In the spring of 1857 David Griggs, another Ohio man, settled on the S.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 34. His house had been built the year before by a man whom he had sent for that purpose. J. F. McMurray, a Pennsylvanian, arrived in the spring of 1857 and made a home on the S.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 33. Amos T. Kegwin, of Windham, Connecticut, purchased the N.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 27 in 1856 and built a house thereon in 1858, and has occupied it since. He and his son, Horace Kegwin, together have added piece by piece until they now have a section or more in all in the vicinity of the original purchase. In the summer of 1858 Anson Stone's house was built by E. D. Carpenter on the N.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 26, the same now occupied by his son, R. P. Stone. J. Shields bought and occupied the N.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of N.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 24 and most of the S.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 13 in 1858. William Sculley settled on the E.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of N.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 24 in 1858. Michael Dunn came to his farm, the S.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  and the S.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of N.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 24 in 1859. Bennett Havens was early in the town on the S.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of N.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 36, and served for several years as supervisor. He is now at Walnut station. L. B. Moore, on the S.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  and W.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of N.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 24, and M. Fleming on the S.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of S.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$ , were also among the early settlers and still occupy the same. J. L. Reed came to the W.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of S.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 23 in 1862. Rev. N. G. Collins, a Baptist clergyman for a time residing in Lamoille, figured largely in lands of this town on both sides of the Green river, and still holds some. All the foregoing settlers were south of the swamp. That part of the township lying north remained unsettled for many years and served as a range for large herds of cattle. The first improvements on that side were made by non-resident owners who rented their lands. Of this class A. T. Anderson, of Polo, opened a large farm on the north part of Sec. 7. Perhaps the first to break any of the prairie for cultivation in this part of the town was William Rink, on Sec. 5. He resided in Dixon and rented it. The first to inhabit that portion was John D. Shafer, a bachelor, who built a cabin on Sec. 8 and herded cattle there for several years. James Durr was on the N.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of N.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 19 in 1862.

The Winnebago swamp on either side of Inlet creek covered nearly the whole township while in a state of nature. A few sections in the



southeast and northwest corners were comparatively higher and drier. A former writer in speaking of it says: "It is almost entirely covered by what is known as Winnebago swamp, which renders a great portion of it uninhabitable at the present time." The lands, however, to quite an extent have been bought up by actual settlers, who resort to drainage. Some parties owning large tracts have made large ditches, and every year the swamp is growing perceptibly less. The probabilities are that ere many years it will be the most desirable land in the county. The soil is of the richest quality, and of great depth.

#### SCHOOLS.

The first school taught in this town was in a room of David Griggs' present residence, by Mrs. Cornelia Mayona, daughter of A. T. Kegwin, in 1861 or 1862, and Miss Lizzie Larkins followed in the succeeding summer, and still later Miss Lavina Swisher followed her. Mr. McMurray moved over into Bureau county, and the house he left was made into a school-house, and Mrs. Mayona taught there. All this was before school districts were organized, and teachers were paid by private subscription. In the fall of 1863 or 1864 school district No. 1 was organized, and the next spring a building was bought of Ross Freeman on Sec. 32, and moved near David Griggs, on the southwest corner of Sec. 34. This was used until 1874, when a new school-house was erected, the site being on the west side of the W.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of N.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 35. It is a beautiful structure, and speaks well for the educational interests of its vicinity. School district No. 2 was organized about the same time as district No. 1, and the first school was taught in a portion of Thadeus May's dwelling, on Sec. 26, by Miss Lydia Havens. The first school-house was built in 1864 or 1865, at the southeast corner of S.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 25. Afterward it was moved to the southwest corner of Sec. 25, where it still is. There are four parts of school districts united with other towns, one each with Walnut, East Grove, Harmon, and Hahnaman.

The first preaching that the settlers of Hamilton township had was in a little school-house known as the Dodge school-house, on the prairie south of the county line. The Sabbath was but little respected at first, as nearly everyone went gunning on that day, and to reform this habit David Griggs, William Griggs, Solomon Welsh, J. F. McMurray, Johnson Griggs and J. H. Knight contributed to pay for preaching, and employed a neighbor, the Rev. Ford, who lived at the east end of Red Oak Grove, paying him fifty cents for each Sunday. The singing was led by Prof. I. B. Dodge, with his violin. It was not a devout congregation; few, possibly none, of those who attended the services were professing christians, nevertheless they recognized the necessity

for divine worship in the settlement, and thus were the sweet influences of better things inaugurated. The Rev. Lumery, who sometimes used strong language, remarked of this beginning that "the singing was fit to be heard anywhere, but the religious propensities of the people belonged to the devil." There are no religious organizations in this township, but a Baptist church was organized just over the south line in Walnut, in Bureau county, at the house of John H. Sayer, in May 1853, and half of the organizers were from this town, namely, Amos T. Kegwin, Alice K. Kegwin, his wife; Ezekiel Sayers, Caroline Sayers, his wife; S. H. Sayers, and Mrs. Lyda Stone, while from Walnut there were John H. Sayers, William Mapes, Susan Mapes, his wife; Thadeus May and his wife, and I. B. Dodge. For a number of years after organizing meetings were held at irregular intervals at the dwellings of John H. Sayers, Ezekiel Sayers, Amos T. Kegwin, and some others, ministered to by itinerants; no regular pastor settled over them until 1870, when the Rev. Mr. First was called, and the village of Walnut having sprung up the location of the church was removed there, and services at stated times were held, and soon after, in 1871, a fine church building was erected, and the means of grace thus used have been blessed, and "numbers have been added to them," until now they have a membership of over 100.

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## EAST GROVE TOWNSHIP.

CONTRIBUTED BY WILLIAM B. ANDRUSS.

This township was originally in what was known as Winnebago precinct, the voting place being for a time at Samuel Meek's and then at David Welty's. In 1850 Lee county adopted township organization, and what is now the township of East Grove was embraced with May, Hamilton, and the south half of Marion, all called Hamilton. In 1856 May was organized therefrom, and in 1859 Marion, and it was not until 1865 that East Grove was organized in its present boundaries, namely, T. 19 N., R. 9 E., and Fenwick Anderson was its supervisor for that and the succeeding year. It is of the south tier of towns of the county and the second from the southwest corner.

## SETTLEMENT.

Esq. Charles Falvey purchased a claim of one William T. Wells in 1836, and occupied it in 1837. This was in what is now the north half of Sec. 34, in the grove that afterward gave the name to the town. On the north his nearest neighbor was a Mr. Robinson, six miles distant in the south part of what is now Marion, who afterward (in 1839)

sold his claim to David Welty. Esq. Falvey has resided there almost continuously since. He owns lands also in Bureau county, a little south, near Ohio station, and a portion of the time he has resided there. He is of an active, energetic make-up, and has been identified, in some phase, with almost every movement in not only the township of East Grove but the surrounding towns in Lee and Bureau counties. He enlisted under Thomas Carlin, afterward governor of Illinois, and served through the Black Hawk war. Now in his old age he is with an only child, a daughter, Mrs. Weldon, on his farm near Ohio station, his wife having been dead many years. Joseph Smith (familiarily known as "Dad Joe") settled in 1833 in the grove bearing his name, southwest of East Grove, some three miles in Bureau county. He was a guide for Gen. Atkinson's army, and a spy under Zachary Taylor in the Black Hawk war. H. W. Bogardus was also prominent as a settler of early date. In 1839 David Welty resided a short time in the north part of this town, while erecting buildings on a claim he purchased of a Mr. Robinson, in the south part of what is now Marion. His residence has been in Marion and Dixon ever since, and will be spoken of in notices of them no doubt. Fenwick Anderson came from Canandaigua, New York, to Dixon in the fall of 1844, and remained there until 1849, then came to what is now the S.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of Sec. 34 of East Grove. He purchased a claim of Robert Tate. This Mr. Tate was a workman in the plow shops of John Deere, at Grand Detour. His family, with a son-in-law by the name of Kyes, worked the claim until Mr. Anderson bought it. This house, a rude log structure, was for a number of years a stage depot on the Galena and Peoria road. When he came his nearest neighbor on the north was 'Squire Falvey, on the east Aaron Kelly. In 1852 he, with S. P. McIntosh, put up a kiln of 200,000 brick in the south part of the grove, which when burned proved most excellent, and from which he built his present residence in 1853. Thomas Shehan came to Bureau county in 1844, and moved to Sec. 35, in East Grove, in 1849, buying a claim of one John Kasbier. S. P. McIntosh came from Alton, Illinois, at the time of the land sales in Dixon, and purchased the E.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of Sec. 36 of East Grove township, and the E.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of Sec. 1 in Ohio township, though he did not occupy it until 1856. John Downey, A. A. Spooner, John Flynn, M. Coleman, A. Barlow, D. Sullivan, Henry Hubbell and Samuel Tubbs settled in this town soon after those formerly mentioned.

In 1842 John W. Harrison, a deputy sheriff from Toronto, Canada, while on a visit to this region, was murdered by James S. Bell, near the N. W. corner of Sec. 35. David Welty, then a justice of the peace, held the preliminary examination on a charge of murder, and committed him to jail at Dixon, to await his trial in the circuit court, if indicted



by the grand jury. A bill of indictment was found and returned into court September 13, 1842. After motions to quash the indictment and continue the case to the next term had been denied, a change of venue was taken, and Judge Thomas C. Browne, then presiding, sent the case to Whitesides county circuit, where he was tried, convicted of manslaughter, and sentenced to the Alton penitentiary. After serving a part of the term of his sentence he escaped from the prison and was never retaken.

A charter was granted by the legislature of this state to H. W. Cleveland, who built a turnpike in Sec. 3 of this town effecting a crossing over Inlet creek, and a toll-gate was kept at the southern terminus. This was on the Peoria and Galena stage route. Mr. Cleveland sold his interest to a Mr. Millard, and his heirs to Charles Crofts. All this was prior to 1849.

A somewhat detailed account of a murder committed in this town in 1849 is here given, as it has a connection with the "Banditti of the Prairie" of those times, and perhaps was the last of their depredations committed, as so many in this case were implicated and came to their death that it broke up the gang.

The one giving an account of this murder says: "In the summer of 1849, on a Monday morning, Charles Crofts (reputed to belong to the gang or band of the 'Banditti') came to Hyra Axtell, and the two came to my house inquiring if I had seen or heard anything of Crofts' hired girl. Her name was Salina Montgomery, aged about fifteen years. Neither myself nor family could give any tidings, not having seen or heard of her for some time. Crofts claimed that she had disappeared without saying anything to the family of her intention of going away, and what had become of her was a mystery. Axtell took an opportunity to communicate with me, unobserved by Crofts, and said he believed there was something wrong in the matter, and that the neighborhood should be informed and a search made. I agreeing with his suggestion, we accompanied Crofts to his house (being connected with the toll-gate on the south end of the turnpike) and were with him about the premises. There were three men mowing not far from the house, Eli Shaw, and the names of the other two I cannot remember, except that the first name of one was Dennis. There was also in their company one Samuel Perkins, usually called 'Sam Patch,' having a rifle with him. After being there some time and having conversation with them in various phases, Axtell and myself became more fully convinced that a misdemeanor had been committed. We concluded to go in different directions and inform the mother of the missing girl, who resided in Dad Joe Grove, or in that vicinity, and the neighborhood generally. He went west and south, and I north and east, and



by night near a hundred people had gathered. We searched that night through the woods and grass, and the next day until noon, and finally Crofts' house. Crofts had stated that the girl had taken all her clothes with her. While searching the second story we discovered that one of the ceiling boards had marks of having been recently moved and replaced. We took off the board and found the best clothes of the missing girl, and under them implements for making counterfeit half dollars. These incidents strengthened the convictions of foul play. A consultation of the crowd was had, and two (W. B. Stuart and James Blainsen) were deputed to go to Dixon for a boat with which to explore Green river. There was an element of the credulous who sent two (Samuel Meek, jr., and Patrick McFadden) to consult a fortune-teller. The search was continued while these committees were gone, but without success. The committees returned; the one with a boat and Nathaniel G. N. Morrill, the owner, and the other reporting that the fortune-teller said a murder had been committed, and five persons were implicated, that the one who had committed the overt act had neither boots on nor was barefooted, that he was ragged, and wore a straw hat, that the law would never be enforced against any of them, and yet the public would be satisfied that they were the ones who were concerned in the matter. Perkins wore moccasins and otherwise answered the description of the one first spoken of. The search went on. This N. G. N. Morrill was peculiarly well adapted for working in business like this. About this time Stuart and Blair, each with a party of men, went to their respective homes for dinner, and when Blair arrived his wife informed him that Perkins had been there during the forenoon, looking pale and haggard, and inquired of her if they had dragged the lower bayou. She told him she did not know, and he went away hurriedly. Blair deemed this important tidings, hurried through his dinner, and came to Stuart's with the information, and on consultation a complaint was made and a warrant was issued by 'Squire Stuart for the arrest of Perkins, and placed in the hands of Constable Willard and Richard Meek. Previous to this Perkins had been living in a shanty in the grove, about half way between Crofts' and the bayou. On the search being instituted, he removed his family and effects to his father-in-law's, Reuben Bridgman, a little north of the present limits of the city of Amboy. The constable, with his assistants, proceeded to Mr. Bridgman's and were informed by him that Perkins had taken his rifle only a short time before and went into the cornfield (of about 30 acres) to hunt chickens.

More assistants were procured, and the cornfield was surrounded. By this time it was about ten o'clock at night, with a bright moon. The family at Mr. Bridgman's were in bed except Perkins' wife. The



*A. A. Petrie*



old gentleman got up and stated that Perkins had not yet returned since going into the cornfield in the afternoon. He pointed to a cottonwood tree, which he said was in the direction Perkins had taken, that a little before sunset they heard the report of a gun which they supposed was a shot at prairie-chickens. Constable Willard, with Richard Meek, James Keeling, W. B. Stuart, and F. R. Dutcher, went in the direction of the tree, and a few rods before reaching it they found Perkins lying on his back, dead. Notice was given to those around the field, and a crowd was soon there. Perkins was still grasping his gun with both hands, and the toe of his moccasined foot was in the guard on the trigger, the muzzle on his breast. A portion of the skull was found nearly a rod from the body, the inside powder-burnt. The coroner (Solomon Parker) was sent for, who summoned a jury of inquest. They investigated the case and rendered the following verdict: "The undersigned being duly summoned and qualified by the coroner of Lee county, as a jury of inquest on the dead body of Samuel Perkins, found dead in the cornfield near Reuben Bridgman's, believe the said Perkins came to his death by shooting himself with a rifle-gun through the head." (Signed) "Jessee Hale, foreman; W. B. Stuart, Richard Meek, Francis H. Northway, Joseph Farwell, William M. Hopkins, Samuel Bixby, Elisha Palmer, John C. Church, Ira P. Hale, John Skinner, R. P. Treadwell. Inlet precinct, August 3, 1849." Meanwhile the search for the missing girl had been going on. This Mr. Morrill adopted the plan of going down the stream to where it loses itself as to having a channel by spreading over the swamp, and by wading upward thoroughly searching every part. It was a dry time and the water quite low. This plan was followed, and when the mouth of the little bayou (as the coroner termed it in his report) was nearly reached, the body was found. The upper part of the face was bruised as though struck with some heavy substance, and some insist that a bullet-hole was in the forehead. The excitement ran high, the male portion of the country for a dozen or more miles in every direction had come out. Coroner Parker was among the number and at once impaneled a jury of inquest, who took possession of the body and held their inquest. The following witnesses were examined, as the records show: Drs. J. B. Gregory, of Dixon, and Harmon Wasson, of Amboy, as physicians; Samuel Meek, sr., Eli Shaw, John Koons, Hyra Axtell, N. G. H. Morrill, Samuel Shaw, Richard Meeks, T. L. Dennis, Charles Crofts, Sally Perkins, Catharine Shaw, and Lyman Hubbard. After the examination closed, the following verdict was rendered: "We, the undersigned, having been summoned and sworn to hold a jury of inquest on the dead body of Silena Montgomery, found dead in Inlet creek, in Winnebago precinct, Lee county, and State of Illi-



nois, and having attended to their duty by a faithful examination of the said body, and by an examination of witnesses in the case and all diligent inquiry they have been able to institute, do report their verdict to be, that the said Silena Montgomery came to her death by violence, and that one Samuel Perkins, late of Lee county, was the immediate agent in procuring her death, as we verily believe." (Signed) "George E. Haskell, foreman; Joseph Gardner, Sabin Trowbridge, I. Means, Alva Hale, L. D. Wasson, Lewis Clapp, Cyrus Williams, Philip Mowry, Joseph Lewis, Ozias Wheeler and B. F. Brandon. Winnebago precinct, August 4, 1849." The circumstances surrounding led to the conclusion that Crofts, Eli Shaw, and the two others that were found mowing for Crofts at the commencement of the search, were implicated in the affair. Warrants were issued, and W. B. Stuart and ——— Curtis were deputed to arrest Crofts and Shaw. They, with Hyra Axtell, started, and on the way, near Samuel Meek's, they found a team and lumber wagon, and in it lay Eli Shaw dead. One report is that he died from the effects of strychnine and whisky, and that it was found that he had purchased some of the former at Dixon, of Dr. Gregory, on that day. From the records in Dixon it is found that a coroner's inquest was not held until March 1, 1850. As his death occurred so long before this he was probably buried and exhumed when the inquest was held. The verdict was as follows: "Verdict of the coroner's jury, impaneled to ascertain how and in what manner the body of Eli Shaw came to its death. We, the jury in said case, do find that Eli Shaw came to his death from causes to the jury unknown. Dixon, March 1, 1850." (Signed) "John Dement, foreman; A. L. Porter, A. H. Eddy, I. Means, N. F. Porter, J. W. Davis, J. M. Cropsy, C. A. Smith, John V. Eastace, Thomas H. Ayers, Cyrus Williams, N. G. H. Morrill."

After leaving the body of Shaw in the care of Meeks the three before mentioned went on to Crofts' house, arriving there at a late hour of the night. Near the door they found a horse and spring-wagon and a trunk in the wagon. Crofts was about ready to go away. Through a rift in the window curtain they saw him load one pistol and lay it upon the table near him and take up another and commence to load it. At this juncture the door was burst open, the loaded pistol and Crofts grabbed at the same time, and Crofts duly ironed by the arresting party. The trunk was taken from the wagon, Crofts placed in it, and Stuart hurriedly drove to Dixon and delivered the prisoner to the jailor. Crofts' wife and her brother, John Bryant, were in the house at the time of the arrest but did not attempt to interfere. The remaining two implicated ones left this vicinity, but were heard of at Peoria, and the officers having the warrants for their arrest proceeded there, found and took them in charge. They were ironed and placed

upon a steamer for Peru, there to take the stage for Dixon. Not long after leaving Peoria the prisoners, having the privilege of walking about the boat, watched their opportunity and simultaneously threw themselves overboard and were drowned, the irons upon them facilitating to make an effectual taking off in this way. Of the five implicated only Crofts now remained alive. He remained in jail, having been indicted by the grand jury August 23, 1849, and the case continued to the next term. His wife visited him occasionally, and a few days before the term time and shortly after one of these visits the jailor, calling at the cell, found Crofts with his throat cut and life extinct; a razor lay by with which the deed was done. The next day a coroner's inquest was held, which resulted in the following verdict: 'Upon the view of the body of Charles Crofts, now lying dead in the jail of Lee county, at Dixon, Illinois, we, the jury of inquest duly impaneled and sworn diligently to inquire, and a true presentment make, how, in what manner and by whom or what the body of the said Charles Crofts, which here lies dead, came to its death, do find that the said Charles Crofts came to his death by cutting his own throat with a razor on the afternoon of the 22d November, A.D. 1849, while confined in the jail of Lee county.' (Signed) 'William W. Heaton, foreman; Charles Dement, E. W. Hines, J. B. Brooks, James Benjamin, A. M. Pratt, R. B. Loveland, James Campbell, Horace Preston, E. B. Blackman, Gilbert Messer, Elias B. Stiles. Dixon, Lee county, Illinois, November 23, 1849.' The theory generally held in relation to this matter, which caused the murder of the girl Selina, is as follows: Crofts' premises was considered a rendezvous of the banditti of those times. Crofts owned the turnpike across the Winnebago swamps and kept the toll-gate at the south end, it being near the center of Sec. 3, of East Grove. Several individuals had been known to pass over the turnpike from the north and were not heard from afterward, especially a peddler who had formerly frequented these parts, and it is supposed this hired girl knew so much of the workings of this banditti that they concluded it was not safe for her to live, and as 'dead men tell no tales,' they murdered her. Crofts planned the mode of proceeding, Perkins was guilty of the overt act, and the other three helped to secrete the body, so all were, as principals or accessories, participants in the matter."

## WYOMING TOWNSHIP.

Wyoming, the southeastern township of Lee county, is the congressional T. 37 N., R. 2 E. of the 3d P.M., and is bounded north by Willow creek, on the east by Paw Paw in De Kalb county, south by Earlville in La Salle county, and west by Brooklyn. In the days of precincts it formed the south third of Paw Paw precinct, and when set off and organized as a township in 1850 was named Paw Paw township, and since the beautiful grove, hereafter described, that gave this name stands almost wholly in this township, and the post-office is named Paw Paw Grove, it would seem that this name should have been retained. But as the township next east chose the same name, it became necessary that one of the contending parties renounce its favorite name. It is reported, but by no means verified, that when contention began to wax hot the question was left to be decided by lot, and that the lot fell on our time-honored Paw Paw of Lee county. And it may be thought by some that this ill turn of luck is what has tended to give to the citizens of Wyoming their proverbial love for whatever is straight and honest and of good report, as opposed to games and "options" of luck and chance. Be that as it may, it cannot be doubted that the citizens of township 37 did then, and do to-day, fervently love their pioneer name. On the plat of their chief village we read: "Town of Paw Paw Grove." Two other villages on the township lines are designated South Paw Paw and East Paw Paw, and naturally the term West Paw Paw is much used, while the abrupt business man everywhere seems partial to the short old name, and the railroad authorities, in deference to a prevailing sentiment, so named the station. "But what's in a name," says the poet, and so said the people. No ill-will seems to have been engendered. The change was ordered here, so at the suggestion of James Goble, and in deference to the wishes of the many who came from the beautiful valley of Wyoming, the present name was adopted by the county commissioner's court, Isaac Harding, Warren Badger and Lorenzo Wood comprising said court, and on May 14, 1851, the board of supervisors ordered that "the township formerly called Paw Paw shall hereafter be called Wyoming."

The first settlers located around Paw Paw Grove. This is still a charming piece of forest. It is some three miles long, and from one to two miles wide. It lies east of the railroad station and about three-fourths of it in Wyoming. From its northeast corner Paw Paw creek runs through it in a southeasterly direction, and after making a junction with Indian creek empties into the Illinois river. A small tree or shrub, unknown to many people in other parts of the United States, east and north, grows freely in this grove and bears a sweet, edible fruit, somewhat like the banana in flavor, but often larger in size.

This is the papaw. It was a favorite with the Indians, and gives its name (somewhat changed in spelling) to a considerable number of places. When the white settlers first came "the timber," as they called this tract, contained about two thousand acres. Unlike other groves, it was free from underbrush. The sugar maple was very abundant. There were many large black walnut trees, four kinds of oak, the hickory, and cottonwood, with a few butternuts and sycamores. "From one of the maples that grew here," says a well known physician, "in 1855, I sold considerable lumber and had left enough wood to supply all the fires of my family for a year." Plums, blackberries and gooseberries were also plentiful here. On the east side, near the county line, was an excellent spring, where the water bubbled up from the bottom, pure, sparkling and abundant, and never freezing in winter. At the northwest corner was another, in all respects equal to the former, and with a volume that seemed inexhaustible. It was the great and constant feeder to Paw Paw creek. These springs were treasures in those early days when water fit to drink was rarely seen by travelers in the west. James Goble, who came in 1837, says he has frequently seen an acre of wagons camped around the latter spring, where now stands the Oak Grove creamery, supplied by this same spring. The prairie grass of this region was remarkable in quantity, and equal to grain in quality, while in the lowlands a rider on horseback could tie the tall, rank slough-grass together above his head. Yet it was very healthy and free from ague. When Rev. Caleb Morris was seeking the most healthful location he learned from the Indians that this was their favorite resort for raising their papooses. Here then were great attractions for emigrants, but the tenure of the land was uncertain, for it was generally believed that this grove was included in Indian reservations; and the old chief Wabonsie and his tribe still had their home within its limits when the whites began to reside here. As is well known, the Black Hawk war did not close till 1832. It had raged from Dixon southward, as well as elsewhere, and included this region. For at Indian creek, not far away, there had been a horrible massacre, and Wabonsie and his neighbor Shabbona had taken part in the campaign, though these noble red-men fought on the side of the whites. For a year later there were disturbances from disaffected Indians; hence it was not until midwinter of 1833-4 that any white men came here and stayed even a short period, so as to make claims upon the land. It was nearly fifty years ago, yet quite a number of the early settlers are still living. Reminiscences of frontier life and adventure and the strange contrasts of the old times with the present, which they describe, have oftentimes a fascinating interest. At one period there were desperate men here, horse thieves, counterfeiters and



gamblers, who gave their locality a hard name for a long time, down to as late as 1860; but it is matter of grateful record that those who gave direction to affairs, the men who have made Wyoming what it is to-day, were strong, brave, fearless and shrewd. These old people will soon be gone. By their hearty coöperation in the effort of the historian they have done a service which all readers will appreciate. Dates and details are usually dry and tedious: but the records of the first things that relate to our own hearthstones are specially valuable in local annals.

It seems clear that Levi Kelsey was the first to emigrate here. He is now deceased. But in the later years of his life he resided at Mendota, where he was president of the bank. Hon. O. W. Bryant, who knew him well, speaks in high terms of his kindness, integrity and capacity for business. His widow, Mrs. E. S. Kelsey, writes from Mendota, August 2, 1881, substantially as follows: Mr. Kelsey had traveled over most of this state, and was well acquainted with its history. He was favored with a remarkable memory for dates, places, persons, etc. He was the first person, with one Joel Griggs, to make a claim and build a house at Paw Paw Grove, in the winter of 1833-4. But believing he was on the Indian reservation, and not being able to ascertain the correct boundaries, he abandoned the claim, and came to Troy Grove, I think, in March. I came out west in September 1834, and remember Mr. David A. Town coming to our house to inquire about the claim at Paw Paw and the chance of being disturbed. Nothing was said about buying the claim, for I do not believe that Mr. Kelsey ever thought that he had a right to anything at Paw Paw. I was present and heard their conversations. It was in December or January that my husband went to Paw Paw Grove. Often heard him tell about it, and of having Indians for neighbors, and of fun with the latter on occasion of cutting a bee-tree. The Indians induced Griggs to cut several trees for them, but not finding the right one he became tired of it; then they tried my husband, who refused to cut any. They then set their squaws to chopping, who, after several failures, succeeded in finding plenty of honey. Mr. Kelsey was largely rewarded for his bravery in refusing to work for them, and pronounced "good shemoka man"; while Mr. Griggs was "shemoka squaw ishnoba," no good.

There was a prevailing belief shared by prominent citizens, among whom may be named A. J. Harrington, Esq., and ex-Sheriff James Goble, that Mr. Kelsey settled here before the Black Hawk war. The circumstantial evidence on their side seemed almost conclusive, in the absence of positive proof to the contrary. But Mrs. Kelsey fortifies her statement by a subsequent letter, and does it so well that doubtless the gentlemen named, will gracefully allow the lady to hold her posi-

tion. She writes October 7, 1881: "I have looked over my husband's memorandum book, and also his account of partnership with Joel Griggs, and find that the date of their going to Paw Paw Grove was January 20, 1834. I have often heard Mr. Kelsey say that he was the first settler there. As to his being there in 1829, that is all bosh; for he came west in the fall of 1828, peddling clocks, under a twenty months' engagement. His route was in Mississippi, Arkansas, Louisiana, and other southern states. I have an account of his being sick at Alexandria, and a man dying in the bed beside him. Thence he went to St. Louis, where he was unwell all winter; then he was at Palmyra, Illinois, for a time, studying with a physician; was again in St. Louis, in ill-health, at the breaking out of the cholera in 1832; then engaged in peddling dry goods and Yankee notions in Illinois, for a St. Louis firm, and continued so to do till he went to Paw Paw in 1834. Mr. Kelsey was not in northern Illinois until about the time of the breaking out of the war. He would not have gone so far up as the rapids of the Illinois river, because the country was not settled enough to induce any one to peddle in it."

Tracey Reeve, president of the Citizens' National Bank of Princeton, Illinois, writes July 27, 1881, as follows: "I went to Paw Paw Grove in May, 1834, with three other men, to locate claims; but concluded, from the best information we could get, that the grove was reserved for Indians. We saw no person there, white or Indian. We camped there over night in some Indian huts. It was very cold for the time of year, and a terrible storm raged there during the night. I had quite an adventure in getting from there to Troy Grove, the nearest settlement, but suppose you will not care to hear about that." An old neighbor of Mr. Reeve, who had boated down the Mississippi with him in early days, and who now resides in Wyoming, tells what that adventure was. After leaving Paw Paw Grove Mr. Reeve came to a creek, where the water was so high it overflowed some distance beyond the banks. In attempting to cross his wagon was upset, and himself thrown headforemost over the dasher. Next morning, when about to pay his tavern bill at Troy Grove, he missed his silver money, about eight dollars. He retraced his course to the scene of the mishap, found the money, and was about to start again, when he was confronted by some thirty Indians. They acted as if they would make trouble, but with his slow team he could not avoid them; being a man, however, of great presence of mind, and knowing a few of their words, he drove boldly up to them, said "Good morning" in Indian language, and passed on without hindrance. A moment after there broke forth from them the loudest laugh he ever heard. They had anticipated some amusement at his expense. These statements settle some ques-

tions which have arisen as to priority of residence. And while due credit is awarded to those who were on the ground before him, the higher praise must be given to David A. Town, as the first white settler around this grove who stuck where he located claims. He was a native of Vermont, emigrated to Marion county, Ohio, and thence to Paw Paw Grove in the fall of 1834. He is described, by one of his neighbors who kept tavern in Dixon, as a man of determined will, a leader in local affairs, capable and square in business. "I have known him to refuse to sell seed grain for a high price, saying: 'you can buy it elsewhere; but I have poor neighbors who cannot get money to buy. I shall give the seed to them.'" His nephew, Hosea R. Town, gives below very interesting reminiscences in this connection: "Uncle David A. Town was the first white man who settled at Paw Paw Grove. He built his first house on the southeast side of the grove, just west of the farm now owned by Pierpont Edwards. It was a log house, 16 x 18 feet, with a door in the east side, one six-lighted window in the west side, and a big fireplace and chimney in the north end. This chimney was built outside of the house, so as to give more room inside. It was made of sticks split out with the fro, and laid cob-fashion, and then plastered inside and out with mud made from common clay. The floor of the house was made from boards that were split from logs cut the length we wanted, and then hewed with a broad-axe. The roof was made of shakes split out with the fro about three feet long, and four or five inches wide, and then laid double onto poles placed lengthwise of the house to hold them up, and then another pole laid on to hold them down, and then another layer of shakes with the butts to this pole, and then another pole to hold them down, and so on till the roof was completed." O. P. Johnson, now of Brooklyn, who rived the shingles, says this house was built by himself and three others in a day and a half, in November 1834. Hosea R. Town continues: "David A. Town made a claim here, and broke and fenced twenty acres, and in the fall sowed ten of it with winter wheat. He then bought half of the 'Ogee section,' owned by Mrs. Job Alcott, a half-breed French and Indian woman, for \$1,000 in silver. He then left here and went to the north end of the grove, and built his second house, which John Patrick now owns. When my father got here, in December 1835, he took the first house and south half of that claim." Those who knew this brave pioneer most intimately say of him: "David A. Town was a square man, a true friend, but a bad enemy." Says one: "I have known men to go to him with the money to buy seed grain, and offer a high price, yet he would refuse to sell it, saying, 'You are able to buy elsewhere; I have needy neighbors to whom I must give this.'"



The following picturesque description of the man is by Andrew Breese: "David A. Town was a remarkable man, known all over this country. Smart, energetic, jolly, drank a little when away from home, but not so much as not to know what he was about; square man; wanted to rule; wanted others to come to him for advice; very resolute, large size, strong, rough man, cock of the walk; as long as he lived was for Paw Paw."

There came with David A. Town, in 1834, his wife and four children. The latter were named George, Martha, David A., jr., and Sarah. The father was wont to say of his good wife: "With all my faults, Betsey never gave me a cross word." Going with Aunt Roxy horseback, both on one horse, to make a visit, the former lady prudently carried her shoes in her hand, not wearing any, but meaning to put them on just before the end of the journey. Being thrown off into a slough, holding up her new shoes she congratulated herself: "There, I have saved my shoes." With such an example, economy became a cardinal virtue in the community. Mrs. Town was loved and respected by all who knew her.

A stranger having inquired of David A. Town one day when meeting him for the direction to a certain place, and then taking an opposite course, Town's suspicions were aroused. Pursuing the stranger on horseback, he overtook him, drew out of him the confession that he was a counterfeiter, discovered and captured his dies, and the man was sent to the penitentiary. What Deacon Hallock said afterward of the daring and quick wit of two of the leading citizens was true also of other good men here. "Town and Bryant were a terror to horse thieves and counterfeiters." The former was an early justice of the peace, and his appointees, like himself, were incarnations of the terror of the law. Later, when the township was organized, he was its first supervisor, serving two terms. He died in 1861. He and his wife were buried in the graveyard half a mile south of Paw Paw. Only two of his children are now living, David A., jr., a broker at Earlville, and Sarah, now Mrs. Terry, at Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

The settlement begun by Town was largely augmented the same fall by the arrival of the Harrises, Butterfield, Ploss, and Wilcox. All these belonged to the same general family who emigrated from Michigan in one company, and of whom the Rev. Benoni Harris, then past three score and ten, was the venerable head. This family, a little colony in numbers, consisted of eight grown-up children, besides Father Harris and his equally aged wife. The children were Benjamin and Benoni, Stephen and Joseph, Polly, Thankful, Amanda and Delilah. Six were married. Polly was the wife of Edward Butterfield, and these had a son, Solomon. The next two were married to John Ploss



and John Wilcox. Next year Delilah was married, of which event more farther on.

Butterfield, while serving in the Black Hawk war, had seen this locality, and being delighted with its attractive features, resolved to make it his future home. Returning after the Indians had been vanquished, he had no difficulty in persuading his relations to emigrate. Benoni Harris, sr., was a Methodist preacher. Both himself and wife are buried in Ralph Atherton's garden, at the southeast corner of Paw Paw Grove. Hers was the first death at the grove. The dwelling occupied the first winter by these immigrants was a double log cabin erected on their arrival. Somewhat later a frame house, the first in all this region, was built by Harris. It may yet be seen, a few rods west of the original site, on James Ketcham's land. Having been sawed asunder, a part of it is used for a dwelling, and the rest for a corn-bin.

In the spring of 1835 Butterfield came up to the west end of the grove, made a claim on the S.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 10, and built a cabin near where Hendrick Roberts is living, in the outskirts of Paw Paw, but on the south side of the Chicago road. This embraced substantially that part of Paw Paw lying east of Flagg and North streets. One season was all he spent here before returning to the east end of the grove. This dwelling was an historical one, as the following facts show: It was the first house; it was on the first claim; it was the home of the first couple married in the township; it was the first store, and the first house to be burned.

It is a generally accepted tradition that David A. Town was the original permanent settler of Wyoming township. This belief shows how easily error becomes perpetuated. His claim to priority is limited to Paw Paw Grove, at the east end of which he settled, as already described. He spent the summer of 1835 at that point, where he fenced twenty acres, and that year sowed the land to fall wheat. Early the same year he claimed the S.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 11 in this township, and removed to it with his family, we feel safe in saying, not before the early autumn. While yet living on the first claim an attempt was made to jump the second, and a cabin was started; but Mr. Town, with his characteristic resolution, expelled the interloper by driving his team off the claim when he was at work. Butterfield sold his claim, on which was the "Big Spring," now covered by Wheeler's creamery, and which was then an object of value, for about \$20, either to David or George Town, probably to the former, for whom the latter occupied it on his marriage and held it. The cabin was south of the road. In 1837 George Town built a hewed log house north of the road, but farther west, near Grummond's corner, and, changing his

location, lived there till 1856, when he moved to Kansas, where he died in January 1870, leaving his family in good circumstances. His widow is yet living.

About the time that Butterfield was making the first beginning in the township, on the present site of Paw Paw village, John Ploss made a small improvement on the south side of the grove, and in like manner led the way to the settlement of south Paw Paw. He built his house in the woods, on the bank of the creek, some forty rods north of Deacon Hallock's, and fenced five acres of ground, but remained not later than fall, when he went back to Michigan. Eber St. John bought the claim. This man had some property, was inoffensive, and too forceless to keep the best company. In a little while he moved to Shabbona, where he mysteriously disappeared, and it was supposed that he had been murdered for his money. His claim embraced the larger part of South Paw Paw, and was purchased by Deacon Orlando Boardman.

Isaac or Asahel Balding was one of the first settlers in the township, having arrived as early as 1835, and located on the Dixon and Chicago road, midway between the two Paw Paws, where he kept the first stage-house and tavern. Deacon Hallock's definition of the early tavern, that "it was a place where blacklegs congregated," has a veritable illustration in the history of this one, as related by Hosea Town: "Balding sold out to William Rogers, he to Dick Allen, he to John Simms, who mortgaged the place for \$400, to get his son John out of jail in Chicago for passing bogus money, and never redeemed it. All these, except Balding, were regular bandits. The stage stopped at this house as long as it ran by Paw Paw." Simms had the stand in 1840, and it was the only tavern then at the grove; but travelers, as was the custom, put up anywhere. Stages were put on this route, between Galena and the village of Chicago, in 1834.

Gillett came in 1835, and died the same season of cholera in Chicago. In December of this year came Russell Town, before alluded to, who resided on the old place, at the east end of the grove, eleven years, then removed to the William Strader place, two miles west of Paw Paw. He died in this township December 31, 1867. His widow, still living in Paw Paw, is the sole surviving representative of those having families and settling at the grove prior to 1837. They brought five children: Hosea, Harriet, David, Zerah, and Elizabeth, and four were subsequently born: Caroline, the first at the grove, April 21, 1836; Oscar, Ellen, and Eliza. Hosea, David, Caroline and Eliza have always been residents of Wyoming, and to the two former we owe acknowledgment for reliable pioneer information.

One Algar, settled at Four-Mile Grove, in this township, in 1835

or 1836. He died not many years after, and his grave, the first at this grove, is in the highway in front of George Yenerick's, where a tall cherry stump stands sentry over the hallowed spot.

In 1836 Job Alcott arrived and built a cabin equi-distant between the two Paw Paws; this and the Butterfield or George Town cabin, were the only ones on the south side of the Chicago road for many years. Alcott's was succeeded by the "Hollow House," noted for its dancing-hall and bar. About 1848 S. P. Rogers opened a country store in this building. Originally from Ohio, he had married, in Illinois, the Pottawatomie Indian woman Madaline, former wife of Joseph Ogee, a half-breed. She owned the Ogee reservation, which contained 640 acres, and was secured to her by the treaty of Prairie du Chien, July 29, 1829. About the first conveyances in this county pertained to this tract. David A. Town purchased the west half, as before stated, for \$1,000. He got 170 rods in width for 160 (best half of bargain). Later, William Rogers bought the remainder.

The first plat of this section was made by Willard Hastings. It was never recorded, and by reason of this omission the land could not be sold for taxes, the collection of which was for a long time precarious and troublesome. After tedious but patient examination, William McMahan, county surveyor, discovered the witness trees, marked "O G," and in 1880 ran out the boundaries, platted the land, and recorded the plat. The Le Clair reservation, granted to Pierre Le Clair by the same treaty of Prairie du Chien, was surveyed in 1843 by Wheeler Hedges, and by him the survey was also legally recorded. The north and south road opposite the old Morgan house divided the two reservations, which comprised the greater part of Paw Paw Grove. Charles Pierce says Samuel J. Best and Augustus Wiley bought the Le Clair reservation of 640 acres for \$2.25 per acre. Wareham or Wiram Gates, everywhere known as "Bogus" Gates, purchased part of the land from Wiley.

Charles Morgan and wife and seven children probably came in 1836, from Virginia, and the next year he was keeping tavern half a mile east of David A. Town's house. William Rogers, already mentioned, came in 1836. He was the first postmaster, having his office near Morgan's tavern. The next post-office was fifteen miles east of him. He was a man of versatile genius; had charge of the removal of the Indians from here to Council Bluffs in 1837; was an officer in the Mexican war, and afterward sheriff of Sacramento, California.

Henry and Medad Comstock, brothers, and blacksmiths, arrived in 1836. Both were drowned while hunting ducks in Iowa, in 1839 or 1840.

The first weddings were in 1836. On July 4, this year, Samuel



McDowell, who now came to the southeast side of the grove and made his home there for a number of years, was married to Delilah Harris. This was the first marriage in this part of the country. Among the invited guests were Shabbona and two other Indians, who expressed great delight at the honor thus shown them. "After the wedding the men went into the grove, cut a liberty pole, brought it out on their shoulders, fastened the flag of our country to it, and raised it; when the stars and stripes floated to the breeze there went up such a shout as never before went up at Paw Paw Grove."\* The next wedding was that of George Town and Fidelia Sawyer, December 13, 1836. This was the first in what is now Wyoming. A week later, December 20, remembered as the remarkably cold day, Levi Carter was married to the widow Gillett. Rev. Benoni Harris officiated on these three occasions.

Jacob D. Rogers came in 1837 from Pennsylvania. His claim of 320 acres, mostly, if not wholly, in Sec. 10, was next west of George Town's claim, and therefore included the west part of the site of Paw Paw. He was the first to settle out in the prairie, west of the grove, and was ridiculed for it. Yet he was a remarkable man. He was very devout, and heartily respected by all. He became a member of the Anti-Outlaws' Society, which seems to have been a vigilance committee that sought to bring big rascals to justice, and possibly one or two to a sudden end. He was a man of uncommon strength, an exhibition of which was liable to occur whenever his disgust (not wrath) was excited. At one time, when everything was brought by teams from Chicago, he was at that place, and among other things purchased a *barrel* of salt. He asked the man with whom he dealt to assist him to load it. The merchant made some trivial excuse for not doing so, whereupon "Uncle Jake," with the remark, "Go and soak your head," seized the barrel of salt and put it over the rear end gate of an old Pennsylvania wagon. At another time his wagon was standing near the fence across the road from his barn, wherein were five three-bushel sacks of oats, which he asked the two hired men to carry to the wagon while the boy hitched up the team. The men thought the wagon could be driven to the barn. This disgusted him at once, as he thought it smacked of laziness. He threw one sack on one shoulder, another on the other shoulder, then caused the men to put two more across them and the fifth still across those two, making a weight of four hundred and eighty pounds, then addressing the men said, "If either one of you men is too lazy to walk across the road I will carry him on top, if the other has ambition enough to put him there." He then carried the oats to the wagon. A stranger to fear, an inveterate talker, with the profoundest feelings of contempt and

\* Hosea Town.



disgust for his enemies, either real or imaginary, his tongue was not infrequently a source of great annoyance to those with whom he became displeased. On the other hand, whoever succeeded in arousing his sympathies had a regiment at command. He would hazard anything in assistance. He was a conductor and his house a station on the "underground railroad." Disliking drunken school-masters he built a school-house, hired a teacher, and joined to secure a good school, which speedily took the pupils from the other. His log house, which was built in 1837, stood where Mr. Ritchie's now is, on Sec. 10. His neighbors urged him to open a temperance tavern, but he declined. He, however, offered to furnish lodging and food to travelers and their horses for fifty cents a night, because the taverns were then charging two dollars and a half for it. They were compelled to come down to his prices, and kept to them for years, and he then turned over to them the patronage that came to him.

James Goble, afterward sheriff, came with Rogers. Their wives were sisters. He says: "I have known Mrs. Rogers when a fire broke out to seize a kettle of water, mount a horse, dash away and put out the flames." William Jenkins and family came in 1837. He says "Paw Paw was a strange place then. It seemed to me that every other man I met was hunting a horse-thief, and you couldn't tell which was the thief—'twas usually both." It was at this time that John Sims appeared, and kept tavern, west of David A. Town's. Sims had been a circus proprietor. It is said that when drunk he would sometimes kick over the tables loaded with food for guests at his tavern. Counterfeit money was found afterward by the purchaser of the house where he had lived.

The Butterfield or George Town cabin now passed into the hands of Wheeler Hedges, who arrived about this time. Willard Hastings was afterward in partnership with him, and the two kept tavern, stage-house, and store. The latter was final owner of the stand, which was burned down early in May 1841. He made a claim of the James Fonda land and erected a cabin; and he also built twice on the Roberts property in Paw Paw, first in 1841. The second was a frame house. A good business man, whose chief aim was to make money. He was killed on the railroad at Earlville and buried at Paw Paw a few years since.

This year a thousand Indians were encamped for a week at the Big Spring at the northwest corner of the grove (now near Mr. Wheeler's). They had come from Indiana in their removal west, and this was the rendezvous where they were paid off by the government. After receiving their pay they went to Shabbona Grove and were met by a circus, which got away as much of their money as it could. The Indians

that lived in these parts had already been removed this year to their new resting-grounds in the west. Their burial-ground here was near the southeast corner of Paw Paw Grove, occupying less than an acre of open ground. "There were," says William Jenkins, "some twenty of the dead reposing in a peculiar way. Each body was placed between two halves of a hollow log, which were supported above the ground upon posts. Other bodies were buried in the ground. The old chief Shabbona returned to this vicinity afterward to live, and died 1859. During the Black Hawk war he learned that the hostile savages were marching for the white settlements, intending to surprise and massacre all. At the peril of his life, alone, he sped his pony over the country, warning every family as he hurried past. Most of them believed him and escaped. Those, or many of them, who delayed or sought to defend themselves where they were, perished. Ever after, this old chief, 'always courteous, a true gentleman,' was gratefully welcomed in Wyoming and wherever else known. He was distinguished, not for his eloquence, but for his influence among the tribes and his friendship for the whites. Both races 'had confidence in his truthfulness and good judgment.' When he visited Washington Gen. Cass introduced him to the crowd which had gathered to meet him, as 'the greatest Indian of the west and a true friend of the whites.'

Waubonsie, chief of the tribe at Paw Paw Grove, was ever on the most friendly relations with Shabbona, and the latter and his tribe were frequent visitors to this place. These two chiefs counseled together like brothers. Waubonsie is described as having less force and influence than Shabbona, whose advice he respected and followed. The trail from Chicago to the large Indian town at Rock Island, still to be seen at some points, ran past Shabbona Grove and along the south side of Paw Paw Grove.

In 1838 Rev. Caleb Morris had arrived. It is said that his wife owned slaves at time of marriage, but he induced her to free them. With him came his daughter, the widow Nancy Robinson, and her children, one daughter and six sons. One of the latter, William, was afterward postmaster. These all located south of the grove. One Mead came this year. This cabin was the third on the south side of the Chicago road, near the county line, on a claim purchased from Benjamin Harris. To Four-Mile Grove came the second settler, Dunbar, who died soon after. Deacon Orlando Boardman came in 1840, from Pennsylvania, and settled on a claim purchased from Eber St. John. "It was through his instrumentality chiefly," says Deacon Hallock, "that the first Baptist church was built at South Paw Paw. He had some means, was very benevolent, and made traveling preachers of every persuasion welcome. He formed an active factor

in the underground railroad, as did many others round here, but some were on the opposite side. Charles Morgan told Deacon Boardman, "whether I am abolitionist or not, *my best mates are.*" Morgan had a fine span. Deacon Hallock, who also arrived this year, further informs us that there were then eighteen families encircling Paw Paw Grove, thirteen of whom were in this township. Of this number, besides those already named, there were White and French Pete. The same season Bailey Breese came and bought a claim of 160 acres from William Rogers, including nearly all that on which East Paw Paw is situated. Mr. Breese's family came in May 1841. Among his children were Andrew, now a merchant at Earlville; Phebe, now wife of Dr. Vosbury of the same place, and Vincent, who lives at East Paw Paw. Mr. Breese was a speculator in real estate in the east, a man of fine education, public spirited, and very influential in shaping affairs at the grove. Pete May and family came in 1841. He bought from George Town nearly all the land on which the village of Paw Paw now stands, but never received a deed. He disappeared mysteriously about 1851, under such circumstances as to authorize the belief that he was foully dealt with. In 1879, while removing an old fence on his former place, some persons found a human body buried beneath it, supposed to be that of May. He was probably the victim of a drunken quarrel. Hon. O. W. Bryant in 1842 settled at Four-Mile Grove. Elder Norman Warriner came in 1843, and for twenty years was pastor of a Baptist church. The township and range lines were surveyed in 1838, but the sections were not run out until the winter of 1842-3. As soon as the last survey was finished preëmptions were promptly made under the original act of 1841. Hitherto people had held title only by right of occupancy. A mutual protection society had existed to prevent claim-jumping, and Samuel McDowell was captain. An instance is given by Charles Pierce illustrating their treatment of offenders. A settler had given a home and employment to a lad till he could go out for himself and earn good wages; but he made an ungrateful return by jumping one of the two forties which were his friend's all. Promptly the society met, and the ingrate defiant mounted a barrel to explain. He mistook his audience. One kick from the captain sent the barrel over, and others as quickly produced a rope which indicated its use. He begged mercy and left. This association enforced its laws by effective methods. Claim-jumpers recognized no law but that of force, and it was applied to them in a manner which, if it did not cure their wickedness, satisfied justice and restored rights. Moral suasion was first employed, but if the intruder was obdurate some convincing proof of the power and settled intent of the community was given. Ducking was discovered to be useful from a



*Walter Little*





temporal standpoint. Tying to a tree blindfolded and administering a flogging by others also blindfolded, saved afterclaps in courts of law and had a practical effect on the man at the tree. But such extreme resorts were rare.

Later emigrants of prominence may be mentioned in biographical sketches in the following pages. Having named so many of the pioneers, it will relieve the narrative and illustrate the times to present here a few

#### INCIDENTS.

Taverns were rather plenty on the Chicago and Dixon road, near Paw Paw Grove, but one of them could not accommodate many guests. Jacob Wirick kept tavern in this vicinity in early times. An old codger stopped here two days, and in making up his bed the women folks noticed a buckskin sack or purse filled with money, which, of course, was not disturbed, but taken from there by the guest on leaving. He was afterward committed to prison for horse-stealing. Being sick, he sent for his wife, and told her he had buried a sack of gold near Paw Paw Grove, beside a fence, and marked the spot by a notched stake. His wife searched but did not find it. The facts somehow getting out caused the women at the hotel to recall what they saw, and to look for the hidden treasure, but in vain. By accident, afterward, Harris Breese noticed a notched stake near a fence and broke it off; meeting Mr. Hampton, a neighbor, he said: "I have found where that money was buried, go and help me dig it up"; but he did not believe there was any there. The two went to the spot, and, still incredulous, put in their spades and at once turned up about \$900 in gold doubloons. It was equally divided, and it is said that Hampton invested his so opportunely in the purchase of land, then especially cheap, that it was the means of making him wealthy.

In one part of the grove lived a man who was so favored by circumstances and situation that his neighbors said if he had only been honest he would have been rich. He did own much land, and had great chances for trade. But his peculiar dealing had caused him to be nicknamed "Bogus." He affirmed afterward that he had never made or passed counterfeit money, but some of the "stuff" was found near his residence. In his vicinity there was played the "box" game. Supposing money could be bought at a liberal discount, an applicant would come for it; a sample box of the "stuff," which was simply good coin in layers of sand, would be shown, with the remark that the negotiation could be arranged and price paid, but delivery of the base coin would only be made by its being at the foot of a certain tree at ten o'clock at night; but when the buyer came to the rendezvous in the

darkness, confederates of the other party would cry out: "Here he is; now we'll fix him!" and discharges of firearms and other alarms would cause the one who came to flee in terror, without getting what he bargained for. It was unfortunate for the good name of "Bogus" that two horse-thieves, with property in possession, had taken shelter on his premises when caught.

In the early days Squire David A. Town sent a prisoner to Sycamore in the custody of Charles Morgan, Dick Allen, and William Jenkins. One of these trio relates the incident. Recent rains rendered traveling slow and tedious, and draughts on the whisky jug frequent and heavy. Coming to an impassable slough they found it necessary to encamp for the night; but to their dismay they found the jug already emptied. A new supply could only be obtained by making a circuitous trip around the slough. They felt they could not pass the night without it, and as the guards were all unwilling to go, they threatened the prisoner with severe treatment if he should fail to come back, and sent him alone for the liquor. He returned before morning, having traveled the tedious ten miles.

Mrs. Roxanna Town, now eighty-two years of age, says: "I have carded the wool, spun, wove and made all kinds of cloth, linen, cotton and wool. These old hands have done a great amount of hard work." Oxen were often the only team, and "it was nothing unusual to go five or six miles to church with an ox team, or to get up in the night, hitch the oxen, and pull the stage out of a slough." For want of a wagon, James Goble tells us that he placed an inverted table on a pair of wheels, packed in his family, and treated them to a ride after a team of oxen. Hosea Town, July 4, soon after he came, drove over to his father's with a sled and pair of steers, giving his wife the pleasure of riding in such a rig. David Smith boasts that his brother had a pair of fast steers that were trotted to a blacksmith's, twenty miles away, for a plow to be sharpened, and then trotted back the same day. Of the small returns received for labor a few instances may be given. Says Hon. O. W. Bryant: "We hauled corn eighty miles to market in early days, and then sold it for 14 cents a bushel; while for oats we received 10 cents, and for wheat 40 cents a bushel. We could not pay any hotel bills out of that money. Provision for man and team was carried from home, and poor shelter gratefully accepted." Said another farmer: "One year I raised 500 bushels of wheat, doing all the work, except exchanging labor for a reaper, with the help of my wife. She had been tenderly reared in a Massachusetts home, but went into the field and bound the grain. When the crop was sold we had left, clear of expenses, only \$10 to pay for our toil." It was hard, in such cases, to make the payments to the government when the land

came into market, but it was usually done; and to the children was thus secured this "goodly heritage."

Deer were formerly numerous here, though they have long since disappeared. Prairie wolves are still found. A grand hunt was made for the latter February 9, 1848. A circuit of about twenty-five miles was enclosed by the sportsmen, but it is reported that only one wolf was killed, and that by Chief Shabbona. But it is said there were frequent occasions, for a year or two, a little earlier than this time, when honest settlers turned out to hunt worse pests, with good success, and that was when they pursued horse-thieves. Raids by the latter caused good people to become minute-men for such emergencies. In small parties, or even singly, they followed the stolen animal so soon as the loss was known. The chase was exciting, sometimes dangerous, whether long or short. The result depended on the courage, promptness and sagacity of the hunters. At Four-Mile Grove, a farmer, rising early one morning, found a door had been broken through, and a basket taken containing corn. Calling his son, he said: "It was a horse-thief who did this, else he would have asked for what he knew would have been given in welcome, and have waited to feed." The two men instantly started in pursuit, before the track could be obliterated, and overhauled the rogue at Princeton. He was held in confinement, though the only charge that could be sustained was the taking of the basket. But soon proofs came of his real occupation, and showed that he was just what his captors had suspected.

The "August flood," familiar to all old settlers, began on August 19, 1851. Says John Buchanan: "It rained incessantly three days and nights, and the sky was in a perfect blaze; many thought the last day at hand. We did not leave the shanty during the time. Families could not get provisions. John Brittain's invitation to all was, 'Come to my potato patch and help yourselves.' New-comers had to subsist entirely on this article of food." The destruction to grain was immense; not half a dozen stacks but were a total loss. D. M. Harris swam his horse three times in reaching Harding, where he found the creek a quarter of a mile wide.

There are four public burial-places in the township. Willard Hastings gave the ground for the first, which is situated near James Fonda's. Near Lester Harding's is one; another, called the Baptist, where a church of that denomination once stood, is situated at South Paw Paw, and there is the Cottage Hill cemetery, owned by the Presbyterians. Fully a tenth of the grave-stones in these encampments of the dead are down, and a large percentage of those standing are in a crazy attitude. If prostrate humanity is the better typified by fallen marble, then bad workmanship and careless neglect should for once have credit.



## PATRIOTISM.

Wyoming freely gave its best blood to fight the battles of the country in the war of the rebellion. Some of the citizens advanced money to pay bounties, and to reimburse them. In 1865 the township authorized a special tax of \$5,566 to be levied for that purpose. Since it was so generous, spontaneous, the people have every reason to be proud of their loyalty.

## COMPANY K, 75TH ILLINOIS VOLUNTEERS.

The only full command recruited in this township during the rebellion was Co. K, 75th reg. Ill. Vols.; but many of the members were from neighboring townships. Dr. George Ryon began raising the company, but the enrollment was principally done by James H. Thompson and Berkley G. Barratt in the months of July and August 1862. The company went into camp at Dixon, where the regiment was organized, and was mustered into the United States service September 2. Dr. Ryon was the first captain, but being elected colonel of the 75th he was succeeded by David M. Roberts. William H. Thompson was first lieutenant and Isaac L. Hunt second. Following is the roll of enlisted men:

Berkley G. Barratt, William Nettleton, Walter V. Simons, John A. Shoudy, Jonathan N. Hyde, James H. Thompson, Joshua C. Wills, Merritt Miller, Orlando B. Jones, William M. Atherton, J. De Witt Abrams, Oscar M. Town, Frederick P. Mason, Joseph W. Agler, John E. Taylor, Ira W. Baker, George H. Baisley, George Beemer, Charles Carner, William A. Conant, John M. Ditts, Frederick Dormoy, Lewis M. Fairchilds, Edward E. Hallenbeck, James C. Howlett, Joseph N. Keen, Benjamin Kidney, James Miller, William Miller, J. William Miller, Sidney B. Radley, John S. Ryon, Lucas B. Schuyler, Orrin Sisco, James E. Taylor, Jacob Turk, John W. Unger, John Woodman, Zora Atherton (killed in battle at Perryville), George A. Brittain (ditto), Sidney Merriman (killed at Stone River), Francis Mills (killed in battle), William D. Baisley, William G. Dean, George Dormoy, Jacob D. Fuller, Benjamin S. Kipp, Joseph Miller, Silas Pringle, Fletcher Vickery, Menzo Coffin, James Hall, Franklin Harkins, J. Pondexter, Frank Atherton, John A. Hunt, Edward J. Rice, Stephen A. Farr, Eben Backus, Lawson Bell, John L. Baisley, Charles Blakesley, William H. Christie, Francis M. Case, Hiram E. Fuller, Orin J. Finlay, Hiram Henry, Nathan Hallock, Moses Hannon, Chauncey Miller, Simon K. McErn, Henry Merwine, Edward Prentice, Benjamin Radley, Charles Sutton, Theodore Spencer, Jacob Smuck, John Agler, John A. Barratt, Andrew E. Fuller, Samuel T. Foresman, Charles H. Golding, Jacob Gruse, George W. Hall, Philip Hackett,

Christopher C. Hodges, Charles H. Kelly, William McIntyre, Harvey A. Morris, Edgar A. Madison, Avery Merriman, Daniel Reams, Edward A. Steele, Thomas P. Steele, Seymour Warren.

In this list all from William D. Baisley to Fletcher Vickery, inclusive, died in the service. From Frank Atherton to Jacob Smuck, all were discharged. From John Agler to Seymour Warren, all were transferred on the muster-out of the regiment, most of them being recruits whose terms had not expired. The first reunion of these veterans was held at South Paw Paw, September 27, 1881, and a permanent organization was formed having for its objects the renewal of acquaintances, by having an annual banquet and social gathering, and the cherishing of fraternal respect by attending in a body the funeral of any member. In a notice of this gathering the Paw Paw "Herald" said: This gallant company of volunteers was mustered into the service and left Paw Paw with eighty-six men, joining the 75th regiment at Dixon. Their first engagement, in which they were placed foremost in the ranks, was the dreadful battle of Perryville. Here thirty-three of their number were killed, wounded and made prisoners. This conflict annihilated fifty per cent of their number, and cut them fearfully. Their last battle was at Nashville, after which only twenty-seven of the brave eighty-six answered to roll-call and were honorably discharged. They took active part in a great many of the leading battles of the bloody rebellion, doing valiant honor in the cause. We would like to give a full account of their long and wearisome "tramp" through the wilderness, supporting the tattered flag which they yet preserve in memory of the blood sacrificed and their dead comrades whose graves are by the wayside, but space forbids.

#### TRAGEDIES.

On March 12, 1879, William E. Rosette, living at East Paw Paw, being incited by jealousy, made a murderous assault upon his wife. For several years he cherished purely imaginary suspicions against her fidelity, until this black distrust developed in his bosom a viper that poisoned his whole life. He no doubt became a monomaniac; his conduct toward his wife was for a long time violent, and indicated his disposition, as he had declared it to be his intention, to murder her. They had ceased to share the same couch, and her fears had become so marked that on retiring at night she never failed to bolt her door and stand the axe at her bedside. At the time described he attacked her with a potato-fork, striking her upon the head and inflicting bloody wounds. Her screams brought the daughter, who interfered and prevented further blows. His victim's sinking to the floor impressed him

with the belief that he had accomplished his work, and dashing out of doors, across a field to a well, he ended his own life by drowning.

In 1863 the city marshal of Mendota, accompanied by Daniel Mizenbaugh, William Mizenbaugh, and another man, called upon John Brittain in the night, and asked for assistance from him and his two sons, John and William, to arrest two horse-thieves named Horton and Raymond, who were making for Paw Paw in a buggy with three stolen horses tied behind. The Brittain's joined the pursuing party with some reluctance, but having consented, and started upon the track, they did good service from that moment in trying to bring the rascals to justice. These passed Brittain's place driving rapidly, and were followed by the officer and his posse, who passed them near Hosea Town's. The marshal, Mizenbaugh, and the senior Brittain jumped from their carriage and faced the fugitives, and the officer commanded them to halt. At that instant Horton drew a weapon and shot at Brittain, the ball passing through his hat. Several shots were exchanged in quick succession, and the firing continued until Fonda's place was reached, when the outlaws passed and their route was lost at the four corners. Surmising that they had gone in the direction of Paw Paw, the road leading to the town was taken and the team was overhauled at the bridge near the creamery, where it had run astride a sapling. Horton was found in a dying condition. Raymond had fled and has never more been seen in these parts. Horton was heard to cry out at the beginning of the encounter, and it is supposed that it was at that time he received the fatal missile in his body. The elder Brittain and his son William delivered themselves up to the law, received an examination before Squire Connell, of Paw Paw, and were discharged.

Some time after the homicide a woman named Hames, from Wisconsin, appeared and claimed the horses. In the fall the father presented himself to the grand jury at Dixon, with complaint against himself, but no bill was found. He was taken ill at the house of a friend and died suddenly.

In the autumn of 1866 an affray, attended with fatal result, occurred on the Rensselaer Baker farm between William A. Conant and his father, Elihu C. Conant, on one side, and William Barber and his wife, principals, assisted by Christopher Srygley and Roderick Kavanaugh, on the other. Barber and his wife were from Canada, and about the time of harvest had come into the neighborhood. E. C. Conant had purchased the Barker farm the spring before, and sold the south half to his son William, and rented him the other, on which the buildings were located. Not long before the occurrence which we are about to relate took place, the senior Conant rented the house to the

widow Kavanaugh without the consent and against the remonstrance of his son, who had sole right to the premises. The father was a quick-tempered, excitable man, and had fallen into a passion when William mentioned the subject ; and to keep peace with him the latter made no further protest, except to the widow, who was too anxious to occupy the premises to give heed to his objections when supported by his father's pretensions. Barber wanted to rent the eighty to which the buildings belonged, and the old man Conant promised the land to him in case he should not sell it. Meanwhile Barber and his wife obtained board with Mrs. Kavanaugh, and William Conant, as had been some time contemplated, bought the premises. But Barber, who was a self-willed, violent, desperate fellow, formed a resolution to occupy and retain the farm, though he had not completed a bargain and could not get lawful possession. It should be said that terms had been agreed on, and E. C. Conant went to 'Squire O. W. Bryant to have the lease drawn according to arrangement with Barber, but the latter failed to meet him there, and then the farm was sold. Barber, without a shadow of right, began fall plowing, and William Conant having now bargained for the land, sought to forbid his continuing the work ; but Barber seemed to avoid him, and before much was done the plowing was interrupted. Conant put two teams to work, and Barber came to the field and ordered him to take them away, which was not heeded, and then the Conants went to Paw Paw and the conveyance was executed. This was on the 13th of November. Next day old man Conant served a notice on the widow to vacate, and the following day his son gave a similar notice. Barber and his wife were not there, and so on the morning of the 19th he called with the same paper, taking along his hired man, Gordon Sanford, for a witness. Barber was away at work, but his wife was at the house, and she improved the occasion to let fall upon Conant a shower of hot words with threats of violence. By previous agreement he and his father were to go together to the woods that day, and as the latter had not yet come along he thought to use the time while waiting in removing collections from around the stable to make ready for tearing it down. While thus employed Mrs. Barber came and ordered him off, and after some angry conversation made an effort to take the pitchfork from him ; but failing in this pushed him several times, then stood in his way as often as he changed places, and at last kicked him. Unable to accomplish anything, she started off threatening to bring those who could drive him away, and went directly for her husband. Convinced by report and observation that he was a reckless, lawless man, and believing that if he came he would be armed and would attempt to frighten him from the premises, Conant thought that if he himself were not found at a



disadvantage, but remained firm and collected, that the matter would end by his holding his ground; so he went across the road to his house and got his revolver, one which he had carried in the army, still not expecting that Barber would come. His two men, Gordon Sanford and Frank Adams, were plowing not far from the stable, and he directed them to leave their teams and join him, in case anybody should come, to hear all that might be said, but not to take part in a fracas if there should be one. He discharged the revolver once to be sure it was in good order and fit for use providing it should be necessary to employ it in self-defense.

In a little while Mrs. Barber and Srygley came in sight, and Conant then sent his men to their work, saying that Barber was not with them and there would be no trouble. Srygley was having dealings with Barber, and had accommodated him with a team to do plowing both on the Baker place and a piece of ground he had rented from old man Conant on the old homestead. The elder Conant now arrived, and the son sent him across to his house with the double purpose of waiting till he should haul off the lumber which he had taken from the stable, and to get him away from the scene of the excitement. William Conant drove into the yard where the lumber was piled, and at that moment Barber, and Roderick Kavanaugh, the widow's son, came, running their horses. The latter dismounted and hitched, but Barber commenced an on-slaught of vile and insulting language, ordering Conant's hands, who were now on the spot, to depart the premises, and at the same time attempted to ride over Conant. The latter seized the horse by the bridle, and displayed his revolver. The senior Conant, Mrs. Barber, and Srygley, all made their appearance on the scene at this juncture. The former was very much excited and demanded profanely to know what they were all doing there, and telling them that they had no business on the place. The woman had a club in her hands which she brandished at old man Conant, declaring herself "enough for him." They bandied abuse a moment, when she struck him on the head and arms with the cudgel, crying she would kill him. He shouted to the men to take her off, as he did not want to receive or return blows. Srygley dragged her away a few steps, and Barber ordered her to go to the house. The old man following them and talking excitedly, was turned upon by Barber, who grasped him by the collar, pressed his head against a wagon wheel and drew back his right hand to strike, when the son instantly cocked his revolver and commanded Barber to let his father go, and he did so. Barber now directed his attention to the latter, and a talk and quarrel of some length ensued, when Mrs. Barber stole up and struck his hand, hoping to knock the

revolver from it, and almost succeeded in that design. With the agility and ferocity of a tiger Barber at the same instant sprang upon his back, reached forward and grasped his wrists, hissing with demoniacal rage that now he would riddle him. The struggle was now for life and was fought with the desperation of despair. Barber cried out to Kavanaugh, "I've got him, Rod; you get the pistol!" The latter, greatly excited, shouted, "Kill him! kill him!" Conant held onto the weapon with both hands, and bending forward with the intention of raising Barber clear of the ground, whirl and throw him, was that instant jumped upon by Srygley, who threw himself on the struggling man's head and shoulders, and reached for the revolver. This was kept out of the way of both assailants. The old man cried out to William to give it to him. Srygley said, "Give it to me or the old man; give it to me and I'll see you aint hurt." The old man tried to get it. Kavanaugh got hold of it, pulled, and fired. The hammer had not been let down since Conant raised it and ordered Barber to release his father. Upon the discharge Kavanaugh, frightened, exclaimed with an oath, "Kill the cuss!" Barber returned, "Stick to him, Rod; get the pistol and shoot the devil!" Conant having made the mistake of bringing it on the ground even with the intention only of being on equal terms with Barber, whom he supposed would be armed if he should come, had no recourse now in the anger and excitement of the moment but to keep it at all cost in his own hands. In the unequal contest his strength was giving out, and he called to Gordon Sanford for assistance, but the latter only stood and looked on. Then the old man Conant called him several times, but he did not respond with help. Believing that the critical issue was at hand the father exclaimed, "Shoot them, Bill; if you don't they'll kill you. If you are afraid to do it give me the pistol and I'll do it." At this point the defendant was thrown upon his hands and knees, and then for the first time he freed his wrists from Barber's vice-like grip. His father tried again to get the revolver, but was pushed away by Kavanaugh, who also repeated the same attempt. Conant managed to get up with both Barber and Srygley on him. The three men now increased their exertions and all began tugging at the revolver. In pulling his hands apart they cocked it; Conant saw what was done, and knowing it was only a question of time when he should be overpowered and murdered on the spot, the instincts of self-preservation asserted themselves for the first time at this stage in his secret thought, and he decided to save his own life. Just then the woman struck at his head with a club, but dodging, the blow was received on his own and Srygley's shoulders. The old man began pulling at the latter who held on to the defendant, and when at last

his hold was broken William's arms involuntarily went with sudden force to the left; the muzzle struck Barber in the side and Conant fired. The poor man clasped his sides, exclaiming, "Oh God! I'm shot!" Srygley and Kavanaugh rushed at Conant, but were kept at bay with the cocked weapon: the infuriated woman, bitter and vengeful to the last, finished the melancholy affair which she had begun by hurling first her club and then a pole at the old man. Srygley assisted Barber into the house, Kavanaugh went for a doctor, and Conant and his men loaded up the lumber. Then the Conants went to Paw Paw and stated the facts to John M. Derr, justice of the peace. Excitement ran high and they were advised to waive examination, which they did. Barber lingered nine days and died. They obtained a change of venue to Whitesides county and were tried at Morrison at the October term 1867. The father was sentenced to six years' imprisonment and the son to eight. Judgment was obtained for \$5,000 to be paid to his widow; a woman was brought from Canada who proved to be his widow, and she released the judgment. William Conant served two years and nine months and was pardoned, and his father four years and four months, when he also was released through executive clemency.

#### SCHOOLS.

Among the early immigrants the schoolmaster came, and his calling made him welcome. At first, school was taught in a log house on the north side of Paw Paw Grove, on Dixon road, probably. A pedagogue who wielded the birch for several seasons here, and whose checkered life is still the topic of talk in many family circles, as occasion recalls it to memory, deserves a brief notice. Born in Ireland, after living for a time in an eastern state, he left his family, and soon after his arrival here was engaged as the teacher. In many respects it seemed fortunate for the settlement. He was not only a man of considerable learning, well-read in literature, but he had also some poetical genius, and was so well versed in law that he could plead successfully a desperate case and win it before a backwoods jury. If in anything he was perfect, he would say sometimes, it was his ability to impart a "correct knowledge of the English language." He could quote Byron, Burns and Shakespeare by the hour, and made it his boast that no one could name a purely English word that he could not define. His students invariably mention his remarkable gift for teaching. Unfortunately he had a consuming appetite for whisky. If not intoxicated in school hours, he often was at other times. At length a neighbor, who had been his boon companion in many a carousal, mysteriously disappeared, and a terrible suspicion rested upon the school-teacher. If he

had stained his hands with crime it was done in a drunken craze. Years afterward a body was found, believed to be the missing man, under circumstances which strengthened the suspicion; but it was too late to call the perpetrator to account. The old schoolmaster's bad habits had wrought retribution. Grown old, without friends here, and sad, he appealed to relatives in the east. His daughters had become wealthy by marriage, and they bade the messenger bring back this answer: "Father shall have a good home with us if he will come; the best of clothes, plenty of money, and nothing to do, if he please; loving hands will minister to him in sickness;—but there is one condition—he cannot come to disgrace us by getting drunk." When told this the old pedagogue wept. He reflected. Finally he said: "I cannot give up the drink."

The first school was started as early as 1836 in a "little pole school-house" not more than 12×12, built expressly for the purpose in the woods on the Meade farm. Emily Giles, from Fox River, taught for \$1 a week and boarded around. All the early schools were supported by subscription. For several years vacated cabins and private houses were used on the Chicago road and at South Paw Paw; we hear of one at Fonda's corner, another near Wheeler's creamery, and very likely there were still others. Of the early teachers we can name but few: Adams, Robert Walker, Willard Hastings, Deacon Boardman, Walter Hyde, Basswood, Mary Harding, Mrs. Amasa Harrington, Elisha A. Stanton, and Mrs. Andrew Breese before marriage. The latter taught in the "little pole cabin," and also the "section-line school." Walker, who came here with May and Breese in 1841, taught in the Comstock brothers' blacksmith-shop, and kept up his school with more or less regularity until about 1846, but probably not all the time in the same place. He is spoken of as a capital teacher, but large acquirements and excellent capabilities are often yoked to crying vices, and the pity is that this was true in his case. But Uncle Bobby's grape-vine swing, the whippings caught for the sly swings in school-hours, and the quaint, doggerel verses he composed on these themes are fresh and withal pleasing recollections to citizens who were then his pupils. The first frame school-building in the township was built as early as 1846, near the location of the creamery, in Paw Paw. About 1848 the country hereabouts was divided into districts, and about 1860 the school in district No. 1, South Paw Paw, was graded, but the one in No. 5 (Paw Paw) is now the only one with a graded course of study. The township contains ten districts, with ordinary school-houses, around which shade-trees, and upon which window-blinds, are generally conspicuous for their absence. The number of children of school age are 434, of whom 354



are enrolled. The principal of the township fund is \$1,730; value of school property, \$6,550; and the tax levy for 1880 was \$2,342.79. John Colvill is present treasurer.

#### PIONEER PREACHERS.

With the earliest settlers came the open Bible. As early as the winter of 1834-5, or the spring of 1835, the venerable Benoni Harris would preach occasionally in his son's cabin, where he lived, and the word would be listened to with an appreciation hardly known in these later days. In 1839 came also the aged Father Morris, whose voice would be heard in the cabins of the settlers. Circuit preachers began to come about this time, among the first of whom were elders White, Lumery, Alonzo Carter, Peter Cartwright, and Butchelder, all of whom were Methodists. As the circuits were very large the appointments would be some three months apart. The early Baptist preachers were elders Carpenter, Charles Harding, and Norman Warriner.

#### POST-OFFICE.

It is said that a star mail route was established here in 1837, and that William Rogers was the first postmaster. Before an office was obtained for this point the nearest was at Somonauk, fifteen miles east. Isaac Robinson was postmaster as early as 1838 or 1839; in 1841 Willard Hastings, who was keeping store and tavern, carried the mail between Paw Paw and Princeton, going by way of Four-Mile Grove. Hiram Wood was the incumbent of the office from 1845 to 1849, when William H. Robinson took it till 1853, and then Wood again. He was next succeeded, in 1857, by James Simons, and he, in 1861, by John Colvill, who has held it continuously since. The latter became deputy under Robinson in 1850, and, with the exception of two years, was connected with the office until his appointment. J. D. Rogers was an early post carrier. At one time being set upon by fourteen drunken men, who insisted on examining the mail, he made some remarks to them which brought a return of bricks and billets, but the smart animal which he rode bore him out of bad company without loss of anything but temper.

We condense a few rambling facts of curious interest. In the early settlement "The Big Field," as it was called, was established by common agreement for the protection of crops, no one being allowed to turn stock upon the area until a specified time. It extended on the north to the road running along the south side of Smith's and Allen's groves, east to the county line, south to the Chicago road, and west to Jacob Epla's. We have no knowledge how long it was maintained.

The three cottonwoods on the Ritchie place, measuring nearly four feet in diameter, were planted by the hand of Rhoda Rogers in 1838. The one at Grummond's corner was set out by George Town in 1840, and those in front of Amos Siglin's by A. J. Harrington a few years later. The half mile row of maples standing Lester Harding planted in 1847. The same year he brought a lot of cottonwoods from Viola township, a distance of six miles, on his back, and set them out on land which he sold the next year to Lord Jones, who has since built a barn from them, and still has a large grove left. The large and beautiful grove on the Earlville road, owned by Deacon Israel Hallock, was planted by him at two different dates, the hard maples about 1850, and the soft maples some twelve years afterward. It is partly inclosed with a border of stately cedars and tamaracks. The first hedge raised in Wyoming township, if not in Lee county, stands on the west line of Sec. 21, on the Morton Girton farm, and was grown by Ira Baker. He found 13,000 osage plants, where some discouraged peddler, no doubt, had thrown them away, and put them to grow in that place.

#### ORGANIZATION AND STATISTICS.

The township was organized in 1850, under the name of Paw Paw. The first meeting of citizens to elect officers was at school-house No. 5, April 2. The whole number of votes cast was one hundred and thirteen. David A. Town was chosen supervisor and John Colville town clerk. The name of the town, as before mentioned, was soon after changed to Wyoming. The honor of the highest township office has been conferred upon only eight different persons in the long period of thirty years.

The population of Wyoming in 1870 was 1,280, and by the last census 1,453. Not a colored man resided in the township at either date. The assessed valuation in 1880 was as follows: Real estate, \$550,893; personal property, \$114,679. The township contains 165 farms, some of them of large size. The latest and best agricultural machinery is in use. The soil is a rich, deep, black loam; the substratum usually gravel, but sometimes clay. The rainfall seems more abundant and frequent, even in years of drouth, than elsewhere, and springs are numerous; hence crops are usually sure. The highest ground in Wyoming marks the divide between the Illinois and the Rock rivers. The surface is diversified by ridges, and at almost every point drainage is easy, often without artificial aid. Ague and malaria seem not to have been known, or at least not enough to be noticed. Good health and long life and general comfort and prosperity are more generally enjoyed here than in most other parts of the west.

The following is a list of township officers since the county adopted township organization:

YEAR	VOTE	SUPERVISOR	TOWN CLERK	ASSESSOR	COLLECTOR
1850	113	David A. Town.	John Colvill...	Willard Hastings...	Geo. S. Walton
1851	62	"	"	"	Edwin Ellsworth
1852	73	Geo. Ryan.....	Jas. Simons...	Elisha A. Stanton...	Miles S. Simons
1853	88	Lester Harding.	Miles D. Cass..	Elihu Rogers.....	Harvey Bills
1854	140	"	S. McIntyre...	"	"
1855	93	"	"	Harvey Bills.....	Hiram Wood
1856	150	Hiram Terry....	Jno. Colvill...	Willard Hastings...	Zera Town
1857	185	Jno. Colvill....	D'd W. Madden	"	Hiram Wood
1858	225	O. W. Bryant....	J. M. Derr....	"	S. N. Bunker
1859	188	Jno. Colvill....	L. H. Flagg....	"	"
1860	197	O. W. Bryant....	"	"	John A. Hunt
1861	185	Jno. Edwards....	"	"	"
1862	211	Geo. Ryan.....	"	Wm. McMahan.....	Stephen N. Bunker
1863	203	Obed W. Bryant	"	Jas. E. Woodbridge.	"
1864	173	Geo. Ryan.....	"	"	Stephen A. Tarr
1865	105	"	"	Wm. McMahan.....	L. H. Flagg
1866	210	"	"	John Colvill.....	"
1867	201	Lester Harding.	"	Wm. McMahan.....	B. J. Wheeler
1868	182	"	Jno. Harding	W. C. Rosyan.....	Jacob Epla
1869	212	Wm. McMahan	"	Isaac E. Hunt.....	Isaac Morris
1870	164	O. W. Bryant....	"	Wm. McMahan.....	Jacob Epla
1871	151	"	"	"	John Harding
1872	201	"	"	"	Rem'ton Warriner
1873	160	Jno. Edwards....	Jno. Agler....	Remington Warriner	Thos. W. Marble
1874	213	"	L. H. Flagg....	"	"
1875	197	"	"	"	Clark Agler
1876	240	"	"	"	"
1877	246	"	"	Wm. McMahan.....	John Allen
1878	301	Wm. McMahan.	Henry Potter..	John Harding.....	"
1879	240	"	"	"	Ira Baker
1880	252	"	"	"	Jas. H. Thompson
1881	283	"	A. C. Radlev..	"	W. H. Smith

#### PAW PAW.

The thrift and superiority of this town exceed any conceptions that might be formed of it from its size. The greatest worth takes the least room. It contains most of the business and over one-third of the population of Wyoming, and having no corporate existence is one of the most orderly, as it is one of the most pleasant, villages in the state. The larger part of it is upon a tract of twenty-five acres, purchased by Peter May from George Town in 1841.

Mrs. Vincent Breese, daughter of Peter May, narrates that on arrival of her father's family, just as the journey's end was reached, their team got stalled in the mire near the spot where the depot now stands, and that they put up that night at the nearest house, which was George Town's. This was on May 5, and the smouldering ruins of Hastings' house and store were still smoking. Town's hewn log house, built in 1837, was the first on the site of the village after the historic cabin built by Edward Butterfield in 1835. May's cabin stood close to the

present Suttor house, west of Siglin & Potter's brick store, and his smithy, started in 1842, was on the south side of the road, nearly opposite the store.

The Hastings house, formerly on the site of the Roberts dwelling, was built in May 1841, and was the first frame house both in the village and township. About this time Charles Pelcher burned brick at the east end of the grove, and Hastings was one of his first and heaviest patrons, having erected right away a house which is now clapboarded and standing at Fonda's corner, the first brick structure in Wyoming. The brickyard was soon moved to the west end of the grove, and this circumstance, trifling as it was, seems to have exerted a remote influence on the future growth of the struggling hamlet. The Pelcher land is now the Wheeler farm; on it, near the "big spring," was built a frame house in 1844. Jacob Epla rented this farm and lived on it in 1845. The perennial fountain may have suggested the need of the "fount of knowledge," as near by was now built the first frame school-house in the township.

Amasa Harrington arrived in 1844, bringing his two sons, A. J. Harrington and H. H. Harrington (the two last of whom reside in the village to-day), and in 1846 bought the May property, receiving the deed direct from George Town. In the same year that Harrington came, Adolphus or Rudolphus Holly built on the south side of the Chicago road (identical with Main street), opposite George Town's, a part of the house now owned by Abram Thomas. The next year Amos Sawyer put up a cabin on the site of the Detamore house. In 1846 George Town moved out of his log cabin into the present Grummond house, which he had just erected. John Colvill and Jacob Rogers (nicknamed "Prairie" Rogers, for being so eccentric as to locate out on the prairie in an early day) were in partnership in the manufacture of shingles by horse-power.

Thus as late as the spring of 1847, when twelve years had elapsed in the history of this little settlement, it contained but half a dozen families, and its business was all comprised in the one little smithy and the shingle mill. After the little grocery burned in 1841 no one had ventured again in trade. In the absence of stores peddlers had profited, among whom was William H. Field, who had plied his vocation in these parts since 1843. On the northeast and south sides of the grove were settlements fully as pretentious and competitive, unconscious rivals for the immigration and trade of a world.

But now came an influx of population and improvements cheering to this community. Jedediah Foster and his son Dwight located on the Ira Baker corner in 1847. Dr. J. C. Heath, from Somonauk, settled here between 1846 and 1849, and was the earliest located physi-



cian in the place. In the latter year he was selling drugs, and not long after erected two buildings on the north side of Main street. He remained a few years, and is now in Texas.

Field & Robinson began merchandising in a building put up by them on the east side of Peru street in the autumn of 1848, the one now standing next north of Squire Harding's residence. They dissolved in a year or two and Field erected the Mayor building, now a harness shop.

Charles Pelcher erected four brick houses in the next two or three years: one was on the Hendershot corner (torn away in 1880); another was the Field house, begun in 1849 for Willard Hastings; and two for himself—one on the Wheeler place, still in use, and the other the old Detamore house, in 1851.

Meanwhile various industries had been established. Mechanics moved in. Blacksmiths had been the first to put up shops; they did a flourishing business. The Walton brothers lived just south of the corner of Main and Peru streets, on the west side, and Sylvester Smith, shoemaker, next below. On the opposite side William Field, in 1849, built the main part of Squire Harding's house, the first floor of which Eri Butler afterward used for a wagon shop.

In 1849 Isaac Morris came to the place and began shoemaking. He has worked at his trade until now. Harris D. Merwine arrived the same time, and the next year set up in the wagon-making business in the western part of the village.

Erastus Gates, school-teacher, at this time owned lots on the west corner of Peru and Main streets. John Allen, carpenter, afterward owned property there which his family occupied many years. He sold the last of this ground in 1880 and moved his house to East avenue.

Not far from 1850 a blacksmith shop was built by Alonzo Osborn, and another by James Symonds, both on the south side of Main street. Symonds did a large business manufacturing wagons and plows, keeping as many as five forges at work. William Cole, Thomas Webster, Bunker, Leonard Bell and Maj. Morse are some of the smiths who have waked the echoes of the anvil here in times past. But probably the most distinguished was Squire L. H. Flagg, an early settler, who was engaged at his trade several years, connected with different traveling troupes, and by the partiality of his fellow citizens was continuously in township office, holding various positions. He was a man of remarkable frame, weighed over 300 pounds; was a rare vocalist, and as such established a flattering reputation. He was called the "lion bass," and his voice is said to have rivaled the depth of distant thunder and the pureness of the *Æolian* harp.

Returning to the first merchants we find that John Colvill was



*Yours truly*  
*David Smith*



the leading tradesman after 1850. In 1862 he built the Flagg & Baker clothing store, and in the winter of 1872-3 the Colvill or post-office building. Westcott Field sold out to I. K. Miller, who was succeeded in 1854 by Sears & Howlett. This firm was in trade till about 1856, when the senior member ran away, leaving Howlett to pay the debts, amounting to \$8,000. Stephens & Lawton followed them a short time, and in the fall of 1856 sold their stock to Cone & Madden, who occupied the drug building. Madden bought out Cone and then sold to Hiram Fuller. Mark Averill sold goods in the place prior to most of those named. A chronicler tells also when the first saloon was here, but it little matters.

Andrew Breese opened a dry-goods store in 1852, and the next year Wilcox & Beck a coöperative establishment. These were in business a few years. In 1858 Jacob Hendershot began in the grocery business in the West building and continued in it till 1873; he then erected on the south side the first brick business house ever in Paw Paw, and added a stock of dry goods. His building consists of two stories and a basement. In 1880 he erected an elegant brick residence on the southeast corner of Main and Peru streets, where he had lived twenty years.

In 1860 William Hazel started the first harness shop. In 1865 William Mayor engaged in the same business on the south side; two years after his son, J. W. Mayor, took charge of it for him, and in 1869 succeeded as proprietor. John Harding commenced trading in 1865, in partnership with John Colvill, and since 1872 has been alone in business. William Merrill began selling goods in 1875 in the firm of William Merrill & Co., and the next year built the Centennial brick building, which he still occupies.

On July 7, 1872, Lester Potter, just commencing in business here, received the first shipment of coal and lumber ever brought to Paw Paw by rail transportation. He was a partner in the erection, in 1880, of the Siglin & Potter double brick building, which occupies nearly the identical spot on which Peter May raised his rude cabin. The Wheeler brick store was erected by George W. Lindsey in 1877. Reuben Hall built his large double brick building in 1880, and H. M. Wilson also erected a two-story brick structure on the southwest corner of Main and Peru streets. A man named Skoyles built the flouring-mill about 1876.

The Oak Grove creamery and cheese factory, 30×40, with an addition 20×50, owned by B. J. Wheeler, was erected by him in 1880, and the manufacture of dairy products was begun the present season. On the first floor are four rooms; one contains an engine of twelve-horse power; one is the creamery; another is used for making and



pressing, and the last contains the springs. These send up water six feet above the surface in such quantity that a pump throwing sixty gallons per minute does not exhaust the supply. The second floor is divided into apartments for storing. The factory has a capacity for 15,000 pounds of milk per day, and the quality of the butter and cheese produced here compares most favorably with the products of older establishments.

Paw Paw contains two hotels for the accommodation of the public. The Detamore house has an interesting history and a well established reputation. The old brick, 16×22, was built in 1851, and two years later an addition 28×36 was made. In 1874 the first part was torn away and replaced by another, 20×30, giving the edifice a home-like appearance and an air of repose and comfort. Before it was remodeled, Union Hall, in which Corinthian Lodge held meetings many years, was in the second story. This house has an ancient reputation for having been run on temperance principles.

The Paw Paw house, sometimes called the West house, was built by Barber, Bull & Hendershot in 1857. It is a two-story frame, and stands next east of the Detamore house. Anchor Lodge met in Washington Hall in this house for several years.

The principal business men in the town, not before mentioned, are H. H. Harrington, J. H. Thompson, Alexander Field, W. A. Pratt, S. C. Mitchell, W. H. Barringer, Guffin, A. R. Harp, S. A. Abbott, Marshal Reams, Henry Lewis, and John Rosenberger, station agent. Others have been in business here from time to time; but this topic is already too much extended.

For twenty-five years prior to 1873 Paw Paw could support but two stores, and each had but a small trade. The farmers would go where the railroad was, and to keep their patronage at home a railroad must needs come here. Those who feared that the cost of the road would be a burden are agreeably disappointed. It was harder for farmers to haul 100 bushels of corn to Earlville in ante-railroad times than now to deliver 250 at Paw Paw. Besides, when they went to Earlville to carry products and procure supplies a day's time was consumed. Now the market is so near every man's door that he can do his trading in the evening. But the rapid development of Paw Paw is most conclusive evidence in this matter. In 1871 the lots and buildings together, in this village, were assessed at only \$3,809. Now they pay taxes on a valuation of over \$60,000. Ten years ago the two stores of much importance carried, the one a stock valued at \$550 and the other \$250. Now there are at least a dozen prosperous concerns in trade here, and a single firm carries a stock worth over \$5,000, which it must frequently replenish to meet its brisk trade. New buildings

are yearly erected, some of them fine business blocks. Hotels have increased. Two good newspapers are established. Of course the tax for the railroad is more than met by the increase of wealth.

In recent years an extensive trade in butter has been established, and so excellent a reputation has been made for the product shipped from Paw Paw that the brand of the dealers here is much sought after by dealers abroad. To the excellent pasturage in the vicinity, and the intelligent and painstaking care in the different stages of making, keeping and shipping, is due the superior quality of the butter sent from here. In 1873 the number of packages invoiced at this station was 875, and in 1880 it had increased to 4,550, aggregating about 227,000 pounds. A single firm handled in one year over \$23,000 worth.

The Paw Paw Grove post-office was made a money order office July 1, 1875. For the quarter ended September 30 of that year the number of orders issued was 111, amounting to \$1,802.31. For the quarter ended September 30, 1881, there were 357 orders, the cash amount of which was \$4,805.14.

#### NEWSPAPERS.

The first number of the Paw Paw "Herald" appeared November 23, 1877. R. H. Ruggles, of Mendota, owned the office and was first editor. In January, 1878, E. G. Cass and J. B. Gardner took control of the paper as publishers, and on February 22 were succeeded by the present proprietor, W. M. Geddes, who shortly after bought the property from Ruggles. Mr. Geddes' ownership has extended from its early infancy, when its patrons numbered fewer than a hundred. He came to Paw Paw at the age of twenty-one, an entire stranger; but brought with him the elements of success acquired in a diligent apprenticeship to his trade. As a result of his industry and good business and editorial management the "Herald" has attained a circulation by which it is self-sustaining and remunerative; and there goes out from the office every week, in addition to its own issue, the Amboy "News." In the past the Shabbona "Record" and the East Paw Paw "Clarion," the latter in the interest of the seminary at that place, have been published by Mr. Geddes. The "Herald" supports republican political principles.

On March 21, 1878, the first number of the "Lee County Times," a democratic paper, was issued by E. G. Cass and J. B. Gardner, at Paw Paw. They started also about the same time the Compton "Record," and in May the Lee "Monitor." In August Mr. Gardner retired from the partnership, and since that date Mr. Cass has continued the business with growing success and popularity. In April, 1880, he began the publication of a paper at Earlville called the "Leader." Mr. Cass spent seven years at the case in the office of the

"Sun and Journal" at Dixon, and located in this village in the publishing business when but nineteen years old. He has made the "Times" a live paper and attracted to his support a paying subscription. Both these offices have well-furnished job departments.

#### CHURCHES.

To Deacon Israel F. Hallock and wife we are indebted for the very full history of the Paw Paw Baptist church. It was organized at the house of Deacon Orlando Boardman at South Paw Paw, in February 1841. There were present Elder Burton Carpenter, delegate from the Dixon charge; Elder Hadley, from the Lamoille; and Elder Thos. Powell, from the Vermilion. Elder Carpenter preached the organization sermon, and Elder Powell the second sermon, the text of the latter being these appropriate words: "By whom shall Jacob arise? for he is small." Of the thirteen members that composed that organization five are still living, but all have moved away save Mrs. Deacon Hallock. Elder Carpenter, being one of the constituent members, preached to the charge about two months, and was succeeded by Elder Charles Harding, who was the first regular installed pastor. He resided at Indian Creek, and his stations were Ottawa, Dayton precinct, Paw Paw Grove, and Indian Creek. While on this work, in 1843, he was suddenly stricken down and died, in his thirty-second year. The "Northwestern Baptist," in an obituary notice, says: "His style and manner of address were after the model of Baxter, . . . by his decease a great chasm is made." The Rev. Norman Warriner was the second pastor, his labors continuing twenty years. In the next decade the charge was served by the Revs. J. D. Pullis, G. W. Scott, G. B. Perrit, and Wm. Sturgeon. The present pastor, the Rev. H. R. Hicks, came in 1874. During his ministry one-third of the present membership were baptized. Early in Elder Warriner's pastorate a house of worship, 24x36, was erected at South Paw Paw, Deacon Orlando Boardman contributing the greater part, and living to contribute liberally to a second one, erected just at the close of Warriner's pastorate. Size of latter about 36x60. This was dedicated in 1864 and moved to Paw Paw in 1873, where remodeled. It is truly a pleasant place of worship. Membership per report of 1880, 129.

About 1870 the Presbyterians of Paw Paw began holding meetings in the school-house, the Rev. Alexander S. Peck, of the Wyoming church at Cottage Hill, preaching for them regularly every two weeks. A committee consisting of the Revs. John Eustie, Alexander S. Peck, and Robert Hays, appointed by the Ottawa Presbytery to organize a church at Paw Paw, were called to meet for that purpose on the 26th of May, 1873. Only the first two were present. Those who took part

in the organization and were the first members were Miss Sarah A. Wilson, Andrew J. Fuller, Susan C. Fuller, Jane Nettleton, Jane Balentine, Mr. and Mrs. Simon Cole, Henry Cole, and Jane Howell. Andrew C. Radley and Andrew J. Fuller were elected elders, and Jacob Hendershot, A. C. Radley and A. J. Fuller trustees. The Rev. Alexander S. Peck was the first preacher. In 1875 this society built their present beautiful little church on East avenue, at a cost of \$1,900. The funds were raised by subscription, and when the house was completed in the autumn no specter of debt hung over it to trouble the free course of the truth and the thoughts of the worshipers. The Rev. Dr. Gibson, of Chicago, delivered the dedicatory sermon. The Rev. Peck supplied the pulpit until the close of the year 1876, and the Rev. McFarland and others from that date to April 1878. The Rev. George D. McCulloch was then ordained, and installed pastor of this church, and remained in charge until July 1881. Whole number of members since the organization, 57; number received by letter, 11; deceased, 3; present membership, 44.

In the year 1869 Elder Lazenby, of Paw Paw circuit, preached at the school-house. About 1870 a class of five members was formed; these were James Fonda, Jane E. Fonda, Sarah E. Swarthout, Edward Patrick, Harriet Patrick. That winter many more joined. In 1875, under the labors of Rev. Pomeroy, the Methodist Episcopal church was erected. Paw Paw, as a separate charge in the Rock River conference of the Methodist Episcopal church, was organized in October 1879. Previous to that time it had stood in connection with Paw Paw circuit, with preaching once in two weeks. When organized into a charge there remained an indebtedness on the church of \$440. Within the last two years that amount has been paid, together with a floating debt of \$250; besides a good parsonage has been bought and paid for in full. The church has eighty members, and is in a good, healthy working state. Rev. B. Close, the only pastor since this became a station, is now entering upon his third year. His generous labors in behalf of this church will long be a theme of pleasing retrospection.

In 1857, under the efforts of John Fleming, a missionary pastor from Earlville, was organized the Wyoming (now Cottage Hill) Presbyterian Society, with the following eight members: Barton Bisbee, Joseph Blee, William Winter, Sally G. Bisbee, Euphemia Blee, Mrs. Wm. Winter, Mrs. Wm. Sproul, James Sproul. Mr. Fleming continued to preach here once in two weeks. Meetings were held in the school-house now known as the Cottage Hill school-house. In 1858 or 1859 a building was erected, about 20×40, costing some \$200, which was paid by subscription. Rev. Mr. Fleming and Rev. John Eustie were present. In 1863, this being too small it was sold to



Joseph Blee, and is now owned by his son, James Blee, and used for a granary, and a larger church was built a little north of where the other one stood. This is about 36×60, with a steeple probably eighty feet high; cost, \$2,200. This was remodeled in 1881. Preaching was by different ones, but no one settled as pastor till about 1870, when Alexander Peck was duly installed. He served seven years. Rev. McFarland succeeded for one year. In 1878 Rev. George D. McCulloch, pastor at Paw Paw Grove, became the supply at Cottage Hill, and continued three years. James McDowell and Wm. McCard are elders. As showing the simplicity of these times, Mrs. Barton Bisbee tells that when she and her husband came in 1856 they were right from fashionable New England, just married, and of course on Sunday she came out dressed in her best. What was her surprise and chagrin to see the pastor enter dressed in blue jeans, and bare-footed. She says, "How I longed to get out of sight." That white dress did not appear again till it had been dyed, and all her finery was treated as superfluous. Probably that preacher's dress was fully as effective as his address.

#### SUNDAY-SCHOOLS.

The first Sunday-school at the Grove was instituted by the Rev. Benoni Harris in the little Mead school-house, the second one at the Robert Walker school-house, and the third in the new frame school-house near the "big spring." About this time was held the first Sunday-school picnic at the Grove; two schools represented, Paw Paw and Four-mile Grove; James Goble, marshal of the day, and Elder O. W. Bryant, orator. After the erection of the present school building at Paw Paw a Sunday-school was organized in the upper room, with Reuben B. Johnson, now of Aurora, as superintendent; Jacob Hendershot, secretary, and H. H. Hamilton, librarian. This had a large attendance for many years. It was a union school, kept up only in the summer season. When the different churches in the village were built and they organized their own separate schools, this one, of course, was discontinued. The Baptist society, being the first here, drew off its members; then followed the Presbyterians, taking away some, and lastly the Methodists. So the several churches now have schools maintained the year round.

#### FRATERNAL ORGANIZATIONS.

In a community where the rude rabble and "cup convivial" are unknown, it is but natural that there should be fervently fostered those higher types of civilization, those beautiful groupings in the panorama of life, where kindred hearts are banded together to aid the needy, comfort the distressed, strengthen bonds of friendship, and promote

general good. In Wyoming societies thrive, but saloons die; farmers, mechanics and merchants prosper, while the lawyer, justice and sheriff find little to do, and the calaboose is unknown.

Corinthian Lodge, No. 205, A.F. and A.M., was instituted at West Paw Paw, August 14, 1856, under a dispensation granted by the grand master, W. B. Herrick. Elias Mott was named as W.M.; J. C. Heath, S.W.; D. W. Madden, J.W.; Henry Rosencrans was appointed Secretary; Jedediah Foster, Treasurer; C. M. Cheeney, S.D.; George Wirick, J.D., and J. O. Crooker, Tyler. The charter was granted October 7, 1856, and the above-named persons, J. O. Crooker excepted, were the charter members. The present membership is sixty-one, and the officers are T. D. Palmer, M.D., W.M.; George Kelly, S.W.; Jacob Hendershot, J.W.; T. H. Stetler, M.D., Secretary; S. C. Mitchell, Treasurer; W. L. Nicholson, S.D.; W. S. Yingling, J.D.; Rev. O. W. Bryant, Chaplain; E. G. Cass, S.S.; Robert Ritchie, J.S.; William Mayor, Tiler. The lodge is in a very flourishing condition. Its work can hardly be excelled. It meets regularly on the first Thursday evening on or before the full moon of each month. Jedediah Foster, the founder of this lodge, was at the date of his death the oldest Mason in the state, having been a member of the order sixty-seven years. He was born in Brookfield, Massachusetts, August 5, 1780, and died December 21, 1869. Corinthian Lodge has erected a handsome monument to his memory.

Veeder Conclave, No. 11, Knights of the Red Cross of Rome and Constantine, was instituted March 20, 1877, by Inspector General Dr. J. J. French, with the following charter members: T. D. Palmer, M.D., J. W. Swisher, Evan Thomas, B. G. Barratt, George Kelly, S. C. Mitchel, W. L. Nicholson, T. Doty, William McMahan, Asahel Prentice, Adam Miller. The first officers were Sir Knights T. D. Palmer, M.D., Sovereign; J. W. Swisher, Viceroy; Evan Thomas, Recorder; B. G. Barratt, Senior General; George Kelly, Junior General; S. C. Mitchel, High Prelate; W. L. Nicholson, Prefect, and Thomas Doty, Herald. The present officers are Sir Knights T. D. Palmer, M.D., Sovereign; George Kelly, Viceroy; Theodore Doty, Senior General; J. H. Blee, Junior General; Asahel Prentice, High Prelate; D. B. Pratt, Treasurer; S. C. Mitchel, Recorder; W. L. Nicholson, Prefect; W. C. Holden, Herald; William McMahan, Standard Bearer; John K. Mannon, Sentinel. Regular meetings on the first evening before full moon, and two weeks thereafter in each month.

Anchor Lodge, No. 510, I.O.O.F., was instituted April 16, 1873, by Anderson C. Radley, Acting Grand Master. The charter members were John Patrick, G. W. Lindsey, jr., Alexander Field, B. J.

Wheeler, and Jacob Epla. First officers: Alexander Field, Noble Grand; B. J. Wheeler, Vice Grand; G. W. Lindsey, jr., Recording Secretary; J. Patrick, Treasurer; Jacob Epla, Permanent Secretary. This lodge meets regularly on Wednesday of each week. It has a membership of sixty-five, and one of the best furnished halls in the county. Its present officers are Henry Potter, Noble Grand; William Siglin, Vice Grand; J. Rosenberger, Secretary; R. S. Near, Permanent Secretary; W. A. Pratt, Treasurer; J. Wood, Grand Warden; R. M. Valentine, Grand Scribe; J. Ketchum, Grand Treasurer; C. Perry, Grand Master; Joseph Radley, Grand Chaplain; J. W. Mayor, representative to Grand Lodge.

Paw Paw Encampment, No. 52, I.O.O.F. This advanced branch of the order was originally at Earlville, and instituted there July 22, 1863, under the name of Earl Encampment, by E. Y. Griggs, of Ottawa, Deputy Grand Patriarch. The following were the charter members: D. M. Vosburgh, C. P. Moore, John Patrick, T. M. Robinson, John B. Luce, Cornelius Ragan, and David Lewis. The first officers were H. P. Moore, Chief Patriarch; John Patrick, High Priest; T. M. Robinson, Senior Warden; Willard Robinson, Junior Warden; John B. Luce, Scribe. Its history comprises the loss of records and other property by a disastrous fire, and subsequent removals to East Paw Paw and Paw Paw. Its first meeting in Paw Paw was March 10, 1879. Its present membership numbers forty-two, and its officers are J. W. Mayor, Chief Patriarch; W. M. Geddes, High Priest; J. H. Sprague, Senior Warden; James A. Warren, Junior Warden; D. R. McLaughlin, Scribe; William Siglin, Treasurer; M. W. Goble, representative to Grand Encampment. Regular meetings Monday evening on or before full moon, and two weeks thereafter.

The social habits of a community are of the first importance, for on these all else of value depends. In no single fact of the history of Wyoming is there so much of gratifying significance as that for twenty years no person has been licensed to sell ardent spirits, and for ten years strong beer has been prohibited. Pauper expenses are only about \$100 a year. Public order and decency have not to be maintained by standing effort; they are voluntary results. As such they point to what is above shoddy pretense, the really high character of the inhabitants. Organization and sumptuary labors have aided in the growth of the temperance sentiment. Societies are formed; they flourish and decay, but the eternal good they represent, and in some measure work out, never dies.

Three lodges of the I.O.G.T. have been established in Paw Paw. Empire Lodge was organized in the spring of 1860, but in the summer of the following year was moved to south Paw Paw. In October,

1865, Anchor Lodge was instituted, but the next summer it suspended. Advance Lodge, No. 104, dates from April 5, 1877. The charter members numbered about 35 persons, including some of the most useful and prominent in the place, among whom were Rev. J. Hartman and wife, H. H. Harrington and wife, G. H. Gates and wife, Louisa and Addie Fields, Cornelia Goodyear, S. J. Pearsol and wife, and D. B. Mason. Meetings were held in Harrington's Hall until suspended July 26, 1879. In all these lodges Mr. Harrington was deputy. Besides himself, Mr. and Mrs. Fields, their daughter Addie, and Mrs. Sarah Swarthout, were earnest workers.

The "Dare to Do Right" blue-ribbon club was organized in February 1878. A public meeting was held in the Methodist church Sunday evening, the 3d, when 88 persons tied on the red and white ribbon. A week later the organization was effected, and Josiah Morris was elected president, Teal Swarthout secretary, Mrs. Dr. Palmer treasurer, and S. A. Abbott, J. Fonda, and S. C. Agler, executive committee.

The Wyoming Horse-Thief Protective Association was organized in the summer of 1862, having for its object the security of its members against horse-stealing, and it has so well answered its purpose that not one has since lost an animal by theft. The twenty-three original members were some of the foremost citizens of this and Willow Creek townships. The first officers were Ira Baker, president; J. M. Blee, vice-president; Hiram Terry, secretary; John Edwards, treasurer, and J. C. Heath, agent. Present officers: S. H. Uline, president; Jacob Epla, vice-president; F. E. Rogers, secretary and marshal, and B. J. Wheeler, treasurer.

Wyoming Grange, No. 360, of the order of Patrons of Husbandry, was organized April 10, 1873. Many of the solid men of the surrounding country were members, and during its existence of one year the average enrollment was about twenty-five.

#### PHYSICIANS.

While J. C. Heath, as we have stated elsewhere, was the first at Paw Paw, the pioneer resident practitioner of Wyoming was Geo. S. Hunt. His professional services in this region began in the spring of 1844. His residence was at South Paw Paw and his practice extended to every settlement within reach.

Henry Hudson and Jas. Goble Boardman were successors at South Paw Paw. The latter is now making an enviable reputation at Bradford.

At an early day came A. S. McIntyre, whose services are remembered. Dr. George Ryan deserves more than a passing notice. He



located in practice at Paw Paw in 1850, was admitted to the bar to practice as an attorney in 1858; in 1860 was elected by the republicans of the county to represent them in the general assembly; recruited part of Co. K, 75th Ill. Vols., in 1862, and was first colonel of that regiment; in 1866 was again sent to the legislature by the republicans of his county; in 1869 removed to Amboy, where he still resides. W. T. Sherwood, Thos. Fish and M. H. Everett are remembered by their many friends. Dr. Everett is now at Troy Grove, and is said to be something of a naturalist. Practicing with Dr. Fish at East Paw Paw in 1871 was a young man fresh from college, J. Oliver Stanton. Born and brought up in Paw Paw, the only son of Elisha and Sarah Stanton, a patriot soldier, a graduate at Rush Medical College in the class of 1871, this young man of promise was cut down just as his ambitious anticipations were beginning to open up as realities. He located at Dennison, Iowa, and died in October 1874, at Laramie City, Wyoming Territory, where he had gone hoping for benefit from the mountain air. James H. Braffet, Thomas D. Palmer and Thomas Stetler are now the resident practitioners. So efficient are their services that anyone from abroad is seldom, if ever, seen in this region. Dr. Braffet has practiced here and in the immediate vicinity since 1856. Dr. Palmer located here in 1867, and Dr. Stetler in 1876. Both of the latter were in the drug business in Paw Paw for several years.

Jacob Wheeler, who came and settled here in 1848, bought from George Town the tract of ground on which a part of the village is laid out. In 1864 the remainder of the Town property was sold to the Grummonds, and on this purchase the two Grummond additions were platted.

The original survey of Paw Paw was defective and never recorded, and the result was serious uncertainties and embarrassments in the matter of partition lines. Some years ago, before the construction of the railroad, all persons having brought forward their deeds and consented to abide by his work, William McMahan re-surveyed the plat and established the rights of each.

By the tenth census the village had a population of 504. The subjoined statements from two of the most sagacious business men of Paw Paw form a fitting conclusion to this topic.

"The railroads coming here in 1872 was the prime cause of the town's start to grow. The prices paid for butter and other products of the farm have added materially to the growth of the town. Many old settlers who have become a little forehanded have sold or rented and moved here on account of the school and churches. We have a very good school, which is presided over by three teachers; also three churches in good condition, out of debt, and with strong membership.

Another reason which I give for the prosperity of the town is that we are not cursed with many hard drinkers, having never, during the ten years last past, allowed intoxicating drinks of any kind to be sold within our borders, having learned that where saloons go up church steeples must come down. The town has been self-sustaining, never having been incorporated. We govern ourselves accordingly, without selling fire-water to pay expenses incurred in running the town. These are sufficient reasons why the town has met with such success."

"I would attribute the thrift and prosperity of this place to the excellent farming country by which it is surrounded, and more particularly to the class of inhabitants, they being almost exclusively eastern people."

#### AN AMERICAN ELEPHANT.

The following account of this animal, believed to be an American elephant, is taken from the "Paw Paw Herald" of August 22, 1880:

"Mr. L. W. Bidwell, in the employ of George Lindsey, was excavating a slough near Lindsey's residence, with the intention of making an ice-pond to be overflowed in winter, when, at a depth of four feet, he struck a peculiar soil, which it is supposed at one time constituted a bed of quicksand. In removing this his shovel struck some hard substance, at the time considered a log of wood; what was his surprise when, as he pried, a large piece of hip-bone, thirteen inches across, was first removed. This excited his curiosity, and another equally as large a specimen was removed. With these he proceeded to interview Dr. Braffet on the importance of the 'find,' and what precaution to observe in its removal. It was evidently a carcass of some mastodon, and the doctor and Mr. Bidwell proceeded next morning to investigate. Meantime the news spread, and the inquisitive multitude began to flock to the resurrection, and a dozen anxious hands were soon busily at work removing the earth. The first portion removed was the upper joint of the hind leg or hip-bone, which measured four feet four inches in length and was found to be twenty-one inches in circumference at the knee-pan, from there to the ankle-joint three feet two inches. The foot was in such a state of decomposition that it could not be removed, but was observed to be about ten or twelve inches high, resembling a bear's foot, and twenty inches long. This would make the hind leg eight to nine feet long. One of the legs was preserved by splintering, and can be seen by calling on Mr. Bidwell. The backbone and ribs were uncovered and found to be of an enormous size, some of the ribs measuring six inches in circumference. The head, which was thrown in such a position as to show that the animal had died in a struggle, was found to be nearly three feet in length; the lower jaw figured up twenty-six inches. In this were two huge

teeth, one measuring twenty-one inches in circumference, and weighed nine pounds, the other two inches smaller. The larger one is now in Mr. Lindsey's possession. No upper teeth nor tusks were found. Then came the upper part of the head with an eye-socket as large as a teacup, and brains enough fill a bushel basket. The balance of the monster only formed an outline for measurement, being so badly decomposed as to make it impossible to retain in good shape anything but the fore legs, which were found to be a trifle longer than those before described. Upon actual measurement, we are told its length is twenty-two and a half feet, and in height would stand between fifteen and sixteen feet, and was undoubtedly covered with a thin coat of hair, as upon the skeleton were found streaks and mossy fibers. It is a matter of conjecture to what species of the mastodon this prehistoric specimen belongs, but it would have offered a valuable addition to the work of scientists and zoologists if it could have been preserved as found."

These are the remains of an American elephant, and are more rare than those of the mastodon. The monstrous animal, when living, had evidently been mired in the quicksand bed of the slough. A better idea of his immense size may be formed by comparison with large animals of the present day. Elephants in Asia or Africa, where only they are found now in native state, are about ten feet high, fifteen or sixteen feet long, and weigh from three to five tons each, when full grown. But the elephant whose bones were here exhumed, when he roamed over these prairies, long ages ago, was twenty-two feet long, and sixteen feet high, according to the estimates of Dr. M. H. Everett, of Troy Grove, and his brother, who made a long and careful investigation. The animal's foot was twenty inches long, and as large as a kerosene barrel. When alive it probably fed chiefly on grass.

#### EAST PAW PAW.

William Rogers was the first settler and built the first house, which was used for a hotel. The date of his arrival is not definitely known, but it was not later, probably, than 1836. He was endowed with great bodily strength, and had a fondness for gambling, which he gratified without restraint. He obtained a large part of the Ogee reservation and sold it out piecemeal. From here he went to Dixon, was proprietor of the Western Hotel some time, and finally drifted to California. He was everywhere known, particularly on the river between here and New Orleans, being a man of much energy and practical experience. His reappearance in these parts recently is mentioned. In 1877 John Wentworth and other old residents of Chicago got up a banquet for Rogers. He died a year or two ago.

Charles Morgan, from Virginia, settled just west of here, on land

now owned by Mrs. Criswell, as early as 1836. His notable characteristic was his great physical strength, he being accounted the most powerful man in all this country. He lived here till about 1850. One Mead, whose given name is lost, came in 1838, located in the grove south of this village, and took a claim reaching to the county line on the east, and to the Chicago road on the north, on which the site of the town partly is. Job Alcott, who came in 1836, had his improvement adjoining Morgan on the east; in a few years he sold to a man named Mussulman, who built the Hollow House.

Bailey Breese emigrated from Morristown, New Jersey, in the fall of 1840, bought a quarter-section next the county line, and north of the Chicago road, from William Rogers, and the following summer, being joined by his family, began to improve it. A part of the village was afterward platted on his land, and his house, built where Mrs. Elizabeth Rosette lives, was the second on the site of East Paw Paw. At a subsequent time, having \$400 in ready cash, a tender of forty acres of land lying on Lake street, in Chicago, near the "Bull's Head" tavern, where all the drovers put up in that day, was made him for this sum of money. He got two weeks' refusal and came home. Rogers, wanting to sell, persuaded Breese to buy more land from him, and the money was invested at East Paw Paw; showing how this dull little village of to-day — at one time, by the way, a stirring, thriving place — was once, and not many years ago, to be preferred to a city in many respects now the most marvelous in the history of the world. Mr. Breese was a cousin to Sidney Breese, once senator from this state, and afterward member of the supreme bench. With a robust constitution, not a gray hair, not a tooth missing, and eyesight unimpaired, he was a type of health. He was an active business man all his life, and his public-spirited usefulness raised his character and memory high in popular judgment. He died in 1859 at the ripe age of seventy-seven.

Jacob Wirick came about 1842 or 1843 and bought out William Rogers; a tavern was on the place and he was landlord there awhile. Later we find him living over the county line in the present southeast quarter of the village. Wirick was converted to Mormonism in Ohio; removed to Nauvoo, Illinois, and thence with his brethren of the faith to Missouri, where, after successive removals and hardships, he became dispossessed of most of his property, of which he had a competency. To escape the wandering condition of his sect, and the persecutions which chased it like avenging fate, he sought his individual fortune, as many of the "saints" did, by dispersing themselves in all directions, and came to this place, where he became well off again, and died just before the war.



Wiram Gates arrived in 1845, bought out Meade, and lived where Charles Pierce, who came the same year, now does. He was a celebrated character, familiarly called "Bogus" Gates, from a kind of money unknown to the law elsewhere than in its penal provisions. Gates denied ever having handled counterfeit coin, but in the face of people's observations his denial was a travesty on truth. He had been a circus proprietor, and in such capacity became educated in the crookedness of the world. There is no doubt that he entertained and assisted the numerous horse-thieves who regularly pursued their occupation. Gates owned a good deal of property, at one time about 600 acres of land, and people said if he had been honest he would have become wealthy; but while setting traps for others, by a piece of sarcastic justice he was himself trapped. Gates built finely, even lavishly, for the time and place; he had so many costly buildings that his home was unsalable except at great sacrifice; suddenly his fine Gothic residence, erected at a cost of \$3,000, burned down; but he failed to collect the insurance. He was also a tradesman in East Paw Paw, and one of his notable operations was the bringing from New York of a stock of goods selected and bought on credit for \$12,000 by his son, with the evident intention of defrauding the creditors. The plan did not succeed. Before the arrival of the goods an agent waited on him and required him, and another son who had means, to indorse for the purchasing son. Failing to meet the obligation at maturity, his stock was seized, he was broken up, and the career of "Bogus" Gates was practically at an end in this part of the country.

Jacob Wirick and Bailey Breese sold the first village lots, the former owning east and the latter west of the county line. The first store, a little west of here, was opened by Charles Howard in 1847; possibly his brother George had an interest with him. At this period the nearest trading points abroad were Dixon, Ottawa and La Salle. The Howard stock of goods was afterward moved to "East Corners" (East Paw Paw) and sold to Sherborn Gates. In 1849 S. B. Warren bought this store and associated James Little with him as partner. Near the same time Wiram Gates, and a tradesman named Davenport, also began selling goods. A post-office was established in 1850, with Andrew Breese as postmaster. The present incumbent is Henry Van Riper. About 1855 the Teachers' Institute and Classical Seminary was erected with funds subscribed for the purpose. A union church has existed in the place since 1868. The original pastors were the Rev. Lavenbee, Methodist, and the Rev. Breed, Congregationalist. Rev. Stover, of the Methodist church, is ministering to the congregation at this time. He preached in this section of country over thirty years ago. A man of fine talent.

Once this was a point where a large trade was carried on ; but the signs of activity, abundant years ago, have departed, and the town gracefully accepts the fate with which the railroads have darkened its experience. The school is an institution of acknowledged merit, whose reputation is sufficient to maintain its thrift and usefulness.

Eleazer Darby Le Moyne, now living in the village, and for many years formerly a traveling temperance lecturer, settled here prior to 1845.

Spartan Lodge, No. 272, I.O.O.F., was organized at East Paw Paw March 31, 1859, by the deputy grand master, Lee, and worked under dispensation until chartered, October 9. The charter members and first elective officers were H. P. Moore, N.G. ; B. B. Griffith, V.G. ; James Lansing, R.S. ; John Clark, T., and E. D. Wilcox. At the date of organization Lanson Hubbell and William Rosette were admitted by card, and D. R. Fuller, John Patrick and John Mickly were initiated. For a number of years the lodge was located on the other side of the county line, but consent having been obtained it was moved into Lee county. Its history, like that of most fraternal organizations, is checkered with trials ; but it has done a beneficent work, and is the veteran parent of five other lodges, namely : Shabbona, of Earlville ; Anchor, of Paw Paw ; Fidelity, of Steward ; Fertile, of Shabbona, and Triumph, of Malugin's Grove. The first three are alive and prosperously at work. Spartan lodge is in a flourishing condition, with a membership of forty-one. The present elective officers are George Firkins, N.G. ; Elmer Day, V.G. ; Nelson Morris, R.S. ; James Ketchum, P.S. ; Oren Marble, T., and Benjamin Frantz, C.

#### SOUTH PAW PAW.

This hamlet is pleasantly situated on the county line at the south side of Paw Paw Grove and lies partly in both counties. It contains a school-house, Methodist church, creamery, cemetery, and about a dozen private houses. The first settler here was John Ploss, in the spring of 1835. Eber St. John bought his claim and then sold it to Deacon Orlando Boardman, who arrived in 1840. Deacon Israel Hallock came the same year, and has lived on his present homestead since that time. The former, now dead, was prominent in organizing the Baptist society, and in erecting the church which once stood here, and was afterward removed to Paw Paw. Ralph Atherton, originally from Massachusetts, but later from Pennsylvania, came to this place in 1844, and is still living here. He was a fancy craftsman of the awl and last, and gladly received by the misses and others whose aspirations began to demand something more tasteful than "cowhides." Dr. George S. Hunt, the first regular physician at the grove and in Wyoming township, located here in practice in the spring of 1844. Deacon

David Paine now in his ninety-fourth year, came in 1840, and settled in the Paine tract. David R. Town, native of Waterbury, Vermont, moved with his father, Russell Town, to Ohio at the age of five, and in 1840, when ten years old, came to Paw Paw Grove. He went from here across the plains in the government service in the spring of 1848. Timothy Goble came here in 1844 from the Wyoming valley, in Pennsylvania, where the rest of the family of that name had lived, and located on the county line where Matt Goble resides. For some years he has been at this place. In 1847 the parents, Elnora and Margaret, arrived from the east, and have since died. Years ago a graded school was held at which many of the people now residing around were educated, and of which they speak in most commendatory terms. Ebenezer Butterfield the original settler of Wyoming township, and his wife Polly, are buried in the cemetery at this place. The Rev. Norman Whitcomb, present Baptist preacher, is also interred here.

As far as can be ascertained it was in the year 1878 when the Rev. Caleb Morris, Nancy, Calif. and Leander Robinson, Hasey and Lavinia Tamm, organized a Methodist class here, and named it the Paw Paw class. Caleb Robinson was appointed leader and stayed and acted in these capacities till 1878, when he moved away and was succeeded by Samuel A. Ashburn. Although the number of paying members for several years did not exceed two, yet it has had regular preaching once in two weeks, and since 1878 every Sabbath. The church edifice was erected in the year 1875. It is about 28 x 30, surmounted by an eight-sided spire, and is a neat and commodious house of worship.

The South Paw Paw Union Sabbath school was organized in the schoolhouse at that place in 1849, with V. M. Dickinson as superintendent. When the Baptist church was moved to Paw Paw the school was transferred from that house to the Methodist.

Friendship Grange, No. 146, was organized at South Paw Paw, where it continues to hold its meetings, in April 1873. The charter members were J. W. Clark, F. E. Hallen, G. Wink, W. Chapman, D. C. Harg, M. Butterfield, H. Hunt, B. J. Warren, D. Chapman, A. G. Jones, Robert Hampton, W. P. Hampton, S. Butterfield, J. E. Ketchum, and W. Atchison. Robert Hampton and D. C. Harg were the first master and secretary respectively. Present membership, twenty-five.

Southside Lodge of Good Templars was instituted at South Paw Paw in April 1877. Present members were Orinda Huntington, and wife, Mrs. Louise Hunt, D. C. Harg, Solomon Butterfield, Edward Butterfield, Charles Ketchum, and Harry Warren. Augustus Becker was lodge keeper. Meetings have not been held the present year.



*Am M Mahan*





On the petition of thirty-four legal voters and tax-payers of Wyoming, John Harding, clerk of the township, issued a call for a special town meeting, to be held September 22, 1869, to vote on the question of the township's subscribing \$50,000 to the capital stock of the Chicago & Rock River Railroad Company. The conditions were that the bonds, if authorized, should not be issued or draw interest or be delivered until the road should be completed through the township, and cars running over it; that the road should be constructed within 100 rods of the main street of Paw Paw, and a depot located within the same distance of the village, and that on the delivery of the bonds to the company the township should receive in exchange a like amount of stock. At the election 142 votes were cast in favor of the proposition to 62 against it.

The proposed termini were Calumet and Rock Falls, and the advantage to be secured was an independent line to connect with the eastern trunk roads without entering Chicago to pay the arbitrary tolls and exactions of the warehouse system. The road was not built according to the representations made to the people; instead of extending it to Calumet it was diverted to Shabbona, where a junction was formed with the Chicago & Iowa railroad. The deflection in the course was made at Paw Paw, to which point the line was finished from the west on Wednesday, June 19, 1872, on which occasion the citizens banqueted the contractor, Isaac Edwards, and his men in hearty fashion. The route was at once leased to the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad Company, and it now forms a part of their extensive system.

The township officers at first hesitated to issue the bonds, but as it was apparent that the conditions which the township had made had been fully complied with, as attested by the record, they at length executed the obligation. Fifty bonds of \$1,000 each, to run ten years from July 1, 1871, drawing interest at ten per cent, with the first coupon detached, were delivered. The people were restive under the injustice of which they were victims, and appealed to the courts to restrain collections on this outstanding debt, but without success. In 1880 judgment for two years' unpaid interest on \$40,000 held in Cincinnati, amounting to \$8,400, was obtained against Wyoming. Upon maturity of the old bonds the present year new ones to the amount of \$59,000, bearing six per cent interest, were sold to pay them off. In placing this issue \$510 above their face value was realized, being the accrued interest and nearly one-half of one per cent premium. A plan of gradual payment was provided for, and the principal and interest fall due in the amounts and years following: 1882—principal \$500, amount \$4,040; 1883—principal \$2,000, amount \$5,510; 1884—prin-

cipal \$2,000, amount \$5,390; 1885—principal \$2,000, amount \$5,270; 1886—principal \$2,000, amount \$5,150; 1887—principal \$2,000, amount \$5,030; 1888—principal \$2,500, amount \$5,410; 1889—principal \$2,500, amount \$5,260; 1890—principal \$3,000, amount \$5,610; 1891—principal \$3,000, amount \$5,430; 1892—principal \$3,000, amount \$5,250; 1893—principal \$3,500, amount \$5,570; 1894—principal \$3,500, amount \$5,360; 1895—principal \$3,500, amount \$5,150; 1896—principal \$4,000, amount \$5,440; 1897—principal \$4,000, amount \$5,200; 1898—principal \$4,000, amount \$4,960; 1899—principal \$4,500, amount \$5,220; 1900—principal \$4,500, amount \$4,950; 1901—principal \$3,000, amount \$3,180. Aggregate amount \$102,380.

The Joliet, Rockford & Northern railroad, to be built by the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad Company, is under contract and located between Paw Paw and Sheridan, intersecting the branch of the latter road at the former place, and is to be extended from Paw Paw both ways to Joliet and Rockford. Grading, just begun (October 1881) at Paw Paw, is to be rapidly completed between the present termini.

#### BIOGRAPHICAL.

JOHN COLVILL, postmaster, Paw Paw Grove, is a native of Campbellton, Argyleshire, Scotland. His father and brothers were iron or hardware dealers, and at the age of twelve our subject showed such ability for mathematics and accounts that he was placed in the counting-room. A little before majority he emigrated with his brother-in-law, John Smith, to this country, and for some years made his home with that family. He made a claim of what is now the Smith Pulver farm, on the north side of the grove, but without improving it sold to Matthew Atchinson. For several years he and Jacob Rogers were making shingles together, and when William H. Robinson started in business for himself on Peru street Mr. Colvill became his clerk. About this time, 1850, he took charge of the post-office, and continued as deputy until the accession of President Lincoln, in 1861, when he was appointed postmaster. When Mr. Robinson removed his store to Earlville Mr. Colvill went with him to that place, and excepting his two years' residence there he has been the incumbent of the post-office of Paw Paw Grove since his first appointment. On his return he went into trade in the old Robinson stand, and in 1875 sold out his business to William Merrill & Co., but retained the post-office. In 1863 he erected the Flagg & Baker clothing store, and in 1872 the Colvill building. As a business man he has been among the most useful and best respected in town. For many years he was almost the sole con-

veyancer on whom the people relied to draft their papers when transferring property. At one time he was elected justice of the peace, but being postmaster was ineligible. He has filled the office of town clerk, and at different dates that of supervisor, and since 1863 that of township treasurer; and all his trusts have been discharged with fidelity and satisfaction to the public. Mr. Colvill was accidentally deprived of one eye while in the cradle, and the other has always been affected with near-sightedness; but notwithstanding his defective sight he has been a prudent and extensive reader, and has stored his mind well from the best current literature. On his table may be found the daily newspaper, the semi-weekly New York "Tribune," two county papers, and nearly half a dozen of the leading English magazines, "Blackwood's" receiving his preference. At the date of his return from Earlville, 1854, he contracted marriage with the relict of William Thompson, to whom she was united in wedlock November 2, 1840. Her husband died in 1848, and James Thompson is the only surviving child. Her maiden name was Nancy Harding, and she was born in Exeter, Luzerne county, Pennsylvania. Her brothers, Lester and Isaac, are leading men of Wyoming county, in that state, and the Hon. Garrard Harding is president judge of Luzerne county. Mrs. Thompson settled in Paw Paw in 1852, and taught school in this vicinity until her second marriage. She was greatly respected for her success in this profession, but not more than for her exalted virtues as a woman. The ceremony of marriage between her and Mr. Colvill took place September 26, 1854. Like her husband she was a great lover of reading, and in her he had a congenial and estimable companion, whose departure to rest April 18, 1881, was a loss to kindred and friends which can never more be supplied. Mr. Colvill's memory is a repository of early history, upon which, with his kind permission, we have drawn with a free hand.

WILLIAM McMAHAN is the county surveyor and the supervisor of Wyoming, and resides on his farm, Sec. 27. He was born January 17, 1829, in Montour county, Pennsylvania. His father's name was Benjamin, and his mother's Esther J. (Brearley). His grandfather was with the brave Gen. Wayne in the army of the American revolution, and served through the whole of that war. William was educated at Danville Academy, in his native county, and learned surveying. At the early age of seventeen he taught school in winter, did satisfactory work as a surveyor through the summer, and helped his father in farming the rest of the year. This course he followed till 1854, when he came west and taught school at Franklin Grove. The next spring he went to Minnesota, where for five years he was employed in surveying for the government, by contract. Returning thence he married Sarah



A., daughter of John Clark, of Trumbull county, Ohio, and the following spring they emigrated to their present home in Wyoming. The compass was laid away, and he gave his attention to farming, hoping he would thus be allowed to enjoy life in the companionship of his family. But competent surveyors were needed; and when such men could not be secured, in some cases, unskillful persons ran the lines wrong and caused trouble. But it was found that when Mr. McMahon could be induced to set the boundaries they were accurate and sure. So much confidence came to be reposed in his ability that the owners of different lands at Paw Paw Grove and the village united in selecting him to make anew the lines that had been doubtful, agreeing to abide by his decision. The result was what they anticipated. Besides Paw Paw, he laid out Compton, Carnahan, Brooklyn, Shaw, Walton, and Hammon. Finally, in 1867, he was appointed the county surveyor, and has been continued in that service ever since. During his term as supervisor in 1869, at his suggestion, the county procured a copy of the government field notes, which contain the original surveys of the whole county. This is kept at Dixon; but Mr. McMahon has made a duplicate copy of the work, and added to it the accumulated surveys of Mr. Cassatt and himself, so that this body of valuable records are now conveniently accessible at his office. Five times he has been elected supervisor, and seven times assessor. He has three children living: Hattie E., John C. and William B. His  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. of land is furnished with excellent buildings. One item of his crops in 1879 was 176 bushels of clover seed.

DEWEY LEVINE, F. Hanson, farmer, La Clair, with his excellent wife, are among the few who survive of those who settled in Wyoming prior to 1841. Mr. Hallock is of the eighth generation from England, the son of Joseph Hallock, an Orange county farmer, and was born June 16, 1818. Leaving the Empire State in his seventeenth year, he spent four years in Pennsylvania. Married Persis P. M. Boardman, daughter of Deacon Orlando Boardman, in 1839. In 1840 emigrated to Illinois, and that fall bought the claim where David Thomas now lives, on the south side of Paw Paw Grove. Next year he sold this and took up a prairie claim one mile south of the grove, on the township line, where to-day, on the Earlville road, may be seen as fine a grove as eye ever beheld. This grove is of hard and soft maples, partly fringed with tamarack and cedar. Mr. Hallock set the hard maples about 1850, and the soft about 1862. On this "Maple Grove Farm" Mr. and Mrs. Hallock lived thirty-seven years. In 1879 he sold to his son-in-law, Steven A. Tarr, and moved to the Boardman farm at "South Side," where they now reside. Mrs. Hallock is one of the thirteen who organized the Paw Paw Baptist church, in 1841. Mr.

Halloek was the second member received; he united in 1842, and was appointed deacon about 1850. They have two children, Mrs. Jane E. Tarr, on "Maple Grove Farm," and William H., on a farm of his father's in Stark county. When Mr. and Mrs. Halloek came as pioneers, they were six weeks and five days on the road, and besides the few things brought in their one-horse wagon they had three dollars left after buying a cow. Now, when forty-one years have elapsed, they appear to be young in social joys and virtues, and blessed with an abundance of whatever enters in to complete a successful life.

JOHN ROSENBERGER, station agent of the Rock Falls branch of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railroad, was born at Hatfield, Montgomery county, Pennsylvania, September 18, 1846. His parents' names were David and Elizabeth. His mother died when he was quite young. His early education was limited to attendance at a common school six months in the year, but he made good use of that. At the age of fourteen he became a clerk in a produce store in Philadelphia. Besides his service here, he assisted his father on his farm at intervals, and before he was twenty-one had also learned cigar-making. For several years afterward he worked at his trade in Michigan, Ohio and Illinois. While residing at Aurora he improved his evenings to learn telegraphing, and found this knowledge of great use afterward. He then mastered the details of railroad accounts and management, so far as he had opportunity, and was employed in railroad work in several offices, gaining much valuable experience. January 13, 1873, he was appointed to take charge of this station. In December of that year he married Miss C. J. Vanhorn, of Paw Paw, formerly of Northumberland county, Pennsylvania. They have two children, Fay Wilson and Georgie Floy.

ABNER B. CLAPP, farmer, lives east of Four-Mile Grove. He was born at Northampton, Massachusetts, April 13, 1825. His father was a farmer, and his grandfather, Simeon Clapp, was a soldier in the revolutionary war. He was not fond of books, and regrets that he did not study more when a boy. But he was early inured to hard work and loved it. After he was twenty-one, having no capital, he labored five seasons in a brick-yard in the warm weather, and in winter worked in the timber; believes he earned a dollar with the axe easier than in any other way, for he was strong and tough. In 1850 he married Miss Aleimena Hastings, of Westhampton. They emigrated to Wyoming in the spring of 1854, and bought the eighty acres on which they now reside. If they had had the money then \$800 would have paid for the farm; but obliged to run in debt and pay ten per cent interest, the original cost was increased by interest to \$2,400 before they could call it their own. The hard work which these two persons did in the

first years they were here would seem incredible, were it not that the facts cannot be doubted. Working for others in the day-time, and then in his own field till midnight, in harvest season, and assisted by his wife, who was a true helpmeet, if the country had not been more healthful than many other places they must have broken down. But when the crops were taken to market prices received only paid the cost of living while raising them and a few dollars over. Corn, shelled and hauled to Mendota, eleven miles distant, brought 12 and 14 cents a bushel. At length, discouraged, Mr. Clapp started for Pike's Peak, hoping to obtain money enough to repay the loans from friends, and his wife returned east to work awhile at her trade as a dress-maker. Mr. Clapp drove 1,100 miles with an ox team, and then met numbers returning who said there was no chance for a living westward. He would have persevered, but his companions induced him to return. He had thus traveled 2,200 miles. His wife met him at their Wyoming home, and the two took up the battle of life with new courage. He had seen so many worse off than they were that he would not complain. Pluck and industry won, and prosperous times came. They have one son, Lewis A.

HON. OBED W. BRYANT has a farm of nearly 600 acres at Four Mile Grove, near Paw Paw, in Wyoming township. Here he has resided for nearly forty years, famous, as a farmer, for his industry and successful management; tenderly beloved by an ever widening circle of friends; esteemed by his neighbors far and near for strict integrity, straightforward dealing, warm-hearted kindness, courage, prompt action, and public spirit. He is of Scotch descent on his father's side, a third cousin of the late William Cullen Bryant, the distinguished poet and editor of New York, and inherits much of the good common-sense grit and blunt ways of his sturdy ancestors. With few early advantages from the common schools of sixty years ago, he is mainly a self-educated man, and has creditably filled many varied positions of honor and responsibility in the town and county, has been a frequent delegate to conventions and often called to preside, and has represented his district in the legislature. Obed Wilson Bryant was the son of Micah and Polly (Twichell) Bryant, and was born at New Vineyard, Maine, March 9, 1815. His great-grandfather, Moses Twichell, was killed at the battle of Bunker Hill; his grandfather of the same name was also in that battle, and served through the revolutionary war, as did likewise his grandfather Bryant. His parents could not give Obed much time to go to school, and very little money to start in life, but we may be sure they taught him excellent habits: and when, in 1837, he emigrated from Maine to Princeton, Bureau county, Illinois, he at once found employment and kind friends. One family there, whose



acquaintance he then made, befriended him in many ways, and encouraged him to commence a course of study and reading which was faithfully followed in after years, and qualified him for the many places he has been called to fill. It is worth while for boys to notice the reason which induced this Princeton family to take such a kindly interest in the young man who had come to them an entire stranger: it was because they found that they "never had any work they wished him to do but that he was ready to do it and did it as well as he knew how." In 1839 and 1840 depression of business caused Mr. Bryant to engage on the public works. It was the hardest kind of labor, but he had great strength and a tough constitution. Within a week he was placed in charge of a gang of men in a quarry in the Peru Bluffs, and soon after was promoted to a more responsible position. Here he was required to keep a record in his books in cubic yards, and knew nothing of the method; but after the day's labor was over he set himself to learn, and before he slept worked out the problem, unaided. Mr. Bryant was married in 1840, to Lucy Lindsey, and in 1842 moved onto a farm he had purchased, on which George Yenerick now lives, at Four-Mile Grove. In 1843 his wife died, and to escape his sorrow he sold his farm, and with another party engaged in buying flat-boats with cargoes at points near the Red river, on the Mississippi, and selling them at New Orleans. Returning the next spring Mr. Bryant bought a farm near his present residence, but just over the line southward in La Salle county, where he lived for several years. In 1844 he married Sarah, sister of his former wife. At a later period he sold the land he had bought at government price for \$15 an acre, and in 1854 purchased the farm where he now lives. Mr. Bryant has taken an active interest in public affairs. Besides serving in office in other places, he has been elected county supervisor here six terms, often a magistrate, and in 1865 was member of the legislature. Yet he prefers to be known simply as a farmer, never seeking any other position. "If you wish me to serve you and are satisfied with my efforts, I shall submit," he has often said when nominated for office, "but if you would please me, leave me on my farm." He has done a good deal of quiet christian work, preaching acceptably in churches and school-houses and outlying neighborhoods, and giving largely in proportion to his means to aid in building churches and endowing educational institutions, and has helped young men to enjoy at college the advantages that were denied to him. Several of the students whom he has helped have become ministers, one is a physician. While he will protest against this brief tribute, which is made up chiefly from the public records and the statements of fellow-citizens, less could not be said in justice, and other facts of interest concerning him may be pre-



sented in another connection in this work, as others had to do with them. Mr. Bryant has seven children: Wilson C., Mrs. D. L. West, Wm. Howard, Frank B., Emma M. (Blee), Eva C. (Lewis) and Chas. H.

DEACON DANIEL PINE, South Paw Paw (La Clair the post-office), in the ninety-fourth year of his age and the thirty-sixth of his residence in the township of Wyoming, is a man of really remarkable history. He was born in the city of Boston, Massachusetts, December 21, 1787. His grandfather was an Italian and died in Italy. Subsequently due and legal notice was received by Daniel's father, Joseph Pine, that a very valuable island was represented to belong to the estate of the grandfather in Italy, with the request to prove up a claim inside of ten years, else it would revert to the government. Dr. Alvin Bristol, of Rochester, New York, the only heir with means sufficient and competent for the work, went to Massachusetts, found the records all straight and adequate, and was about to proceed when he sickened and died. This put an end to the whole matter. Daniel's father was a clothier. His generosity in becoming surety for others kept the family poor. Of thirteen children Daniel is supposed to be the only survivor. In 1803 the family moved to York state, and while passing through the town of Arlington, Bennington county, Vermont, Daniel, a sprightly and attractive boy six years old, attracted the attention of the landlord of the tavern, named Baker. Baker says to Daniel's parents, "I like the looks of this boy; would like to have you leave him with me." The parents being poor and having a number of children, could spare this one, and left Daniel with Baker on trial for a few months. His father returning and finding Daniel contented, he indentured him to Baker till majority. Unfortunately the clause relating to the boy's schooling was simply that he be taught "to read, write, and cipher," which proved altogether indefinite. Daniel's father fully intended the boy should have at least three months' schooling for years, and took Baker's word for it, and therefore did not submit it to writing. So in the tavern, always wanted, summer and winter, the boy grew up, devoid of even a rudimentary education, Baker promising well each year for the next, but "next year" never came. At Daniel's majority he came one hundred miles north to the town of Williston, where one Horace Allen was teaching school. Daniel went to school to him, saw his destitution; his pride did not allow him to take the proper place to obtain the needed primary instruction. In 1813 Daniel married this Allen's sister, Lucy Allen, who, being an educated girl, became to Daniel his spelling-book. Being quick of observation, as she told him letters he memorized the orthography, until in a few years he was able to do business quite well. So we find him saying to his printer in 1878, "The diction is correct, but the spelling, I know, is not, and

I am unable to correct it ; please do this for me." In the war of 1812 the subject of this sketch did service at the battle of Plattsburg, and received a land warrant, the net avails of which was \$300, and sixty-six years later, in 1878, he commenced drawing a pension of \$96 a year by virtue of the recent act of congress. In 1815 he moved to St. Lawrence county, New York, where he resided till 1834, when he moved again to Ohio, county of Madison ; thence, in 1845, came to Illinois and settled at South Paw Paw on what is known as the "Bacon Farm." In 1866 he sold there and moved to his present residence at South Paw Paw. Mr. Pine has been a member of the Congregational church over sixty years, and thirty-six years of that time a deacon in that church, and in all this period his manner of life has been above reproach. He was a whig at first, and about 1846 identified himself strongly with the abolitionist party, then with the republican party, and for years has advocated strongly the legal prohibition ticket as the only remedy for drunkenness. He has everywhere been active in the cause of temperance, and his life has ever conformed to his teaching as an advocate of temperance and righteousness and true holiness of heart and life. Mr. Pine's natural constitution has been remarkable ; his general health now is as good as ever. Last year he planted and tended a half acre of corn, hoeing it three times, and he says, "Oh, yes ; what a fine crop I had !" Samples of that corn and those potatoes have gone to numerous friends in other states. His strength has ever been beyond his weight. His height is about five feet eleven inches, and he never weighed over one hundred and sixty-five. He was an adept at wrestling. One incident may be worthy of record : When about eighteen he went into a ring of wrestlers on training day and floored thirteen, every one of whom were older and heavier than himself, and was not thrown at all. When twenty-two, at Williston, at a similar game, he floored the champion wrestler of the state on each of the three holds. His faithful wife walked with him over sixty years. They had eleven children, eight still living, each and all of whom are active in different churches. They are Mrs. Perry Stowe, Mrs. Sylvester Carter, Mrs. David R. Town, Mrs. E. K. Whitmore, Julia, Horace, Daniel, and Nathan A. At the ninetieth anniversary of Mr. Pine's birthday his five daughters all came and gladdened their father's heart by a munificent gift, which he fully appreciates. Deacon Pine is to this day a remarkably fine penman. His correspondence is very large. His diction is easy and expressive. In 1858, at the solicitation of friends, he wrote the history of his religious life, which was published in Utica, New York, and in 1878 he wrote and published a small pamphlet of a religious character.

JOHN EDWARDS resides at East Paw Paw. For six terms he was

elected supervisor of Wyoming, and has served nineteen years as commissioner of highways here. He was born in the parish of Locherly, county of Hampshire, England, November 21, 1821. His parents' names were William and Phebe. They were poor, and labored upon a farm. His school privileges were quite limited. In 1837 he sailed for the island of Barbadoes, in the West Indies, where he was two years in the service of the British government, in the navy yard, and taking care of naval stores. Thence he went to Canada, where he was still employed by the government, at Montreal and Quebec. A year and a half later he came to Syracuse, New York, worked in the county, and in the spring of 1846 enlisted in the United States army, 5th Inf. His regiment joined Gen. Worth's division, under Gen. Scott, at Vera Cruz, in the Mexican war, and was in all the engagements that followed to the capture of the city of Mexico. A ball from a sharpshooter took off his forefinger here. Each man wounded in entering the capital was presented by Gen. Scott with \$10 from his own purse. Mr. Edwards received his discharge February 22, 1848, with a pension certificate for \$96 a year, and a land warrant. The latter he soon after located in Wyoming, on Sec 6. In September, 1848, he married Eliza Ann, daughter of Henry Merwine, of East Paw Paw. They have three children. Mr. Edwards is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and a worker in the Sunday-school.

ALMERSON POTTER, farmer, Paw Paw Grove, was born October 5, 1847, in Wayne county, Pennsylvania. When he was nine years old he came with his parents, Lester and Miranda (Andrews) Potter, to Paw Paw Grove. At the age of twenty-three he began farming near Twin Groves, and on January 27, 1870, married Miss Mary E. Bispham, daughter of William Bispham, of Wyoming township. In the autumn of 1872 he moved to his father's farm, in Sec. 8 of the same township, where he still remains. They have five children: William Lester, Henry Floyd, Jerusha, Clara, and Effie.

ELISHA A. STANTON (deceased) was born in Exeter, Luzerne county, Pennsylvania, May 28, 1821, brought up a farmer's boy, given good advantages at Harford Academy, and became a successful teacher. February 21, 1845, he was married to Sarah Oliver, of the same place, and on the following May-day set out on their wedding tour, it being no less than a thirty-day journey with their own conveyance to Illinois. Stopping a few days at Harding, they arrived at Paw Paw Grove June 16. Mr. Stanton entered land located about a mile west of Paw Paw, and in due time received the deed from the government. This land never changed ownership till 1875. Mr. Stanton died in 1855. Their only son, J. Oliver Stanton, was in the war of the rebellion, under the last call, graduated at Rush Medical College in the class of 1871,

was with Dr. Fish some six months at East Paw Paw in the practice of medicine, and then located at Dennison, Crawford county, Iowa; but his health giving way, he went to the mountains in July 1874, and died at Laramie City, Wyoming Territory, the following October. His two orphan children are with his mother, also his sister Hattie, the only surviving child of the subject of this sketch, their residence being in the village of Paw Paw.

JESSE BEEMER, farmer, Paw Paw Grove, son of Henry and Mary (Spandinberg) Beemer, was born in Sussex county, New York, in March 1814. In the spring of 1820, a date which Mr. Beemer remembers with great distinctness owing to the surprising number of rattlesnakes he saw, removed and settled in Luzerne county, Pennsylvania. In the backwoods schools of that period the privileges for education were of the slimmiest character, but such as they were, Mr. Beemer improved them. He bought and improved a 100-acre farm. October 14, 1838, he was married to Hannah, daughter of John W. Vanauken. She was born in New Jersey, June 8, 1821. Mr. Beemer emigrated to Illinois in the fall of 1847, and the next spring purchased his present farm, on Sec. 6, in this township. The land he bought was raw prairie, and the whole country was very wild, and on his way from Peru by way of Four-Mile Grove, to his purchase, he was followed most of the time by wolves. Mr. Beemer is an earnest republican, and during the late war had three sons in the Union army. George was a volunteer in Co. K, 75th Ill. reg., and was severely wounded in the battle of Perryville. The other sons entered the service in 1865. Mr. and Mrs. Beemer have been the parents of twelve children, nine of whom are living. Of these seven are married. Two live in Iowa, two in Nebraska, and all the others in Lee county.

FRANCIS M. CASE, farmer and stock raiser, Earlville, Illinois, was a native of Pennsylvania, born in Wyoming county February 15, 1839. His father was Chauncy Case, and his mother's maiden name Mary E. Roberts. In 1845 they emigrated to Lee county, Illinois, and next year took up the claim now owned and occupied by the subject of this sketch. This is the S.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 35. It will be observed by the reader that a prairie claim two miles away from any timber at that early day was a thing almost unheard of, and indicates quite clearly that the claimant was one who did his own thinking, regardless of the common opinion, and when we come to consider the value he placed upon an education, as seen in the advantages and attainments of his children, this view of him as an independent thinker will be confirmed. Francis attended school successively at South Paw Paw, East Paw Paw, Lee Centre, and Clark's Seminary at Aurora. He then taught several seasons, and was offered the position of principal of the Batavia Academy, which ill



health compelled him to decline. A sister, Hattie, is one of the finest scholars in the state, having a state certificate; a brother graduated at Normal, also at Ann Arbor, and is now a probate judge in Kansas. As patriotism and intelligence are closely allied, we are not surprised to find the subject of our sketch responding to his country's call. In 1862 he enlisted in Co. K, 75th reg. Ill. Inf.; was wounded in the terrible encounter at Perryville, and on account of this wound was discharged in 1863. In 1867 he bought the home farm, built his fine two-story house, and was married October 10 of that year to Cynthia J. Clark, daughter of John Clark, of Ogle county. Three children bless their union: Stella, Harry and Charlie. On his excellent farm are superior buildings, with orchards, hedges and shade-trees to correspond. Mr. Case has always voted for the successful candidate for president. He and his wife are both members of the Paw Paw Baptist church.

WILLIAM M. STRADER, a portrait of whom is given in this work, and a leading farmer of Wyoming township, was born in Sussex county, New Jersey, August 18, 1824. His parents, Henry and Rachel (Moore) Strader, were in good circumstances, and when he was five years old they removed to the present county of Wyoming, in Pennsylvania, where they continued their occupation of tilling the soil. He made the most of the advantages for education afforded by the district schools near his home; and after a residence of twenty years in that place he emigrated to this township in May 1848, and entered the N. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 6. He completed an unfinished log house, broke and fenced his land, and purchased 120 acres more on Sec. 31, in Willow Creek. His marriage to Miss Sarah A. Post, daughter of J. D. Post, of Lee Centre, and sister to Elder William H. Post, was celebrated February 22, 1852. Accompanied by his bride he immediately after started to cross the plains to California. The company, of whom William Hopkins, of Temperance Hill, was the captain, had seven wagons drawn by oxen, and a few saddle-horses. Seven women and about twenty-one men composed the party. After waiting three weeks at Iowa City for the grass to start they set out on their long and toilsome journey of six months. At this time there was a stretch of seventy-five miles between Iowa City and Council Bluffs unbroken by sign of human habitation. Shasta, California, was the terminus of the stage route, and that place was reached September 26. Mr. Strader located on Trinity river, in Trinity county, where he had a ranch on which he built a good house and barn, and at which point he operated a ferry, always known by his own name. His house was the polling-place for that section of country, which was named "Strader's Precinct." In the fall of 1853 he disposed of his property, and in the latter part of Jan-

uary took the stage for Marysville, en route for "the States." At that place, on the 27th, he took passage for Sacramento on the steamer Pearl, carrying 122 persons, including the crew. At this time there was great rivalry for business and the fare had fallen from \$5 to 50 cents. Between this and another boat which left at the same time there was a race the whole way. When nearing the wharf at Sacramento city, and not more than twenty rods from the landing, the Pearl exploded her boilers, injuring all on board except eight. Mr. Strader, wife and child happening to be at that moment in the wash-room, escaped scalding, and were rescued before that end of the boat went down. The passage from San Francisco to Panama lasted fifteen days. This city, though having one of the finest roadsteads in the world, had no wharf, and the boats which came out three miles to the steamer at a signal from a gun, to land the passengers, could not, owing to the tide being out, reach the shore with their prows, and stranded. The passengers had paid \$2 apiece to be put ashore, but were now required to "come down" with a dollar more to be carried out on men's backs. Mr. Strader was not a light weight, as he found when his transporter fell headlong with him in the water and left him to get out at his own pleasure. Crossing the isthmus, a distance of forty-eight miles, over the Panama railroad, a crooked, rickety concern, they reached Aspinwall, after six hours' travel, but on arrival were detained on the cars the greater part of a day, waiting for the specie boat, which was delayed outside the harbor by the ebbing tide. From New York they proceeded to Philadelphia, thence to Chicago, and reached Paw Paw Grove March 25. Mr. Strader bought his homestead from Russell Town the same season. Mrs. Strader had a second narrow escape from disaster at the fall of the Dixon bridge, May 4, 1873, having just crossed before the fatal accident. These parents have had six children: George C., born in California, died at the age of nineteen; John, who died in his ninth year; Mary A., who died in her eighteenth year; Willis, Edward J. and Harry G. Mr. and Mrs. Strader are both members of the Paw Paw Baptist church, to which they have belonged the last seventeen years. Their deceased daughter was a young lady of unusual personal beauty, bright intellectual promise, and great excellence of soul. Of her the Rev. H. R. Hicks, her pastor, said: "She had added to her natural charms, that pearl of great price that most gracefully adorned her remaining life." Mr. Strader is a man of cheerful and charitable disposition, well known and thoroughly respected. Under his roof are found hospitality and goodly comfort, due not more to his large-heartedness than to the smile, and skill, and tender care of his estimable wife. Mr. Strader recently lost a favorite nephew, who once lived with him, by a distressing accident on the Marietta &

Northern Georgia railroad, on which he was an engineer. The Marietta "Journal," in the course of an article extolling his character and heroic conduct, thus speaks of the manner in which he bravely met his death: "We say bravely, but we might say heroically, for we have been told that he said that he saw danger caused by a broken cross-tie, and could have jumped off and saved himself, but he knew the passengers would be killed, so he stood to his post, reversed his engine, and went down the embankment and was immersed in scalding water. Walking up to the crowd, he asked 'Is any one killed?' he was told 'No.' 'Thank God!' he exclaimed. Then with perfect coolness he said, 'I am scalded from head to foot!' although not a quiver of the lip was exhibited and not an expression of pain, yet strips of skin had peeled off of his hands, arms, legs and back. Such nerve is seldom met with. And thus he met death heroically, and lost his own life to save others. He was a young man of fine physique, splendid mental endowments, a skillful machinist, honorable and just in all his dealings, punctual in keeping his promises, and gentlemanly in his deportment. He was past grand of Cherokee Lodge, a Mason, and a worthy citizen. Although he came to our city a perfect stranger, he made many true, warm-hearted friends, and was esteemed by our entire people. His sudden and shocking death is deeply regretted."

JOHN BAKER, farmer, stock raiser and dairyman, Paw Paw Grove, was born in Jersey county, Illinois, October 14, 1846. At an early age his parents, Ira and Sarah Baker, brought him to Wyoming township, where they settled and have since made their residence. This subject obtained a fair education in the district schools, and on February 7, 1872, married Miss Hannah E. Hunt, only child of Dr. George S. Hunt, the first regular practitioner in the township. In the fall he went to Neosho Falls, Kansas, with a view of purchasing there, but returned the following spring. Next autumn he moved to the Hunt farm, where he now resides. Purchases by him have enlarged the homestead to 360 acres. His barn, nearly new, 30 x 80, was built in 1879; his other buildings, including a good granary, are large and commodious. His farm is well stocked with implements, neatly cultivated, and in his herd are about 110 head of cattle and horses. Louis Ward and Arthur James are their only children. Mr. Baker is a member of the Corinthian Lodge, No. 205, A.F. and A.M.

FRANCIS E. ROGERS, farmer and dairyman, Paw Paw Grove, was born in Luzerne county, Pennsylvania, August 2, 1840. He was the youngest son of Elihu and Bersheba (Styles) Rogers. The lineage of this family is traced directly back to that grand martyr to principle, John Rogers, who was bound at the stake. Jacob D. Rogers, who came to this town in 1837, was a brother to Elihu. The subject of this

sketch has a fair education and has taught four years in this township. On March 4, 1865, he enlisted for one year in Co. G, 15th Ill. Inf., and marched from Raleigh to Richmond. On the three-hundred-mile march from Leavenworth to Fort Kearney and back he drove a team of six little yellow Spanish mules, that were just like wild cats. They had to be choked down and chained before it was possible to harness them. An officer looking on remarked, "Rogers, you are the only man who can handle mules without swearing." To hitch the tugs he was compelled to lie flat down and let their heels fly over his head. These were wild mustang mules, lassoed, choked down, and hitched up. His experiences with them were decidedly rich. On April 27, 1866, he married Nancy Barratt, daughter of John A. and Rachel E. (Clark) Barratt. To gratify his father's wish he remained on the home-place, where the latter died in 1873. Their three children, Belle, Frank, and Mary E., are all minors. The large cottonwood in the rear of the house is ten and a half feet in circumference. It was the only living shrub on the place when his father came, and was left by the cradler the season before, it being just above the grain. Mr. Rogers is a stalwart republican in politics, and past grand of Anchor Lodge, No. 510, I.O.O.F., and secretary of the Wyoming Horse-Thief Protective Association.

AVERY MERRIMAN, farmer, Paw Paw Grove, was born in Geauga county, Ohio, February 2, 1846. His father, born in Pennsylvania in 1812, came to Illinois in 1846, and settled first at Shabbona Grove, and two years later at Paw Paw. A carpenter by trade, he followed the same till he went to Nebraska, in 1875, where he died in 1878. His father was married in 1839, to Mary French; his mother, who died in 1863, leaving five children. When the family moved from Shabbona Grove Avery was but three years old, and remembers seeing Indians who lived about forty rods from his father's place. In 1864 he enlisted in Co. K, 75th Ill. Inf., and served till the close of the war. This command was first in action at Perryville, and next at Stone River; it fought at Chickamauga, served during the Atlanta campaign, resisted Hood's invasion of Tennessee, and bore a part in the battle of Nashville and the pursuit of his demoralized forces into Alabama. An elder brother of the subject of our sketch was killed at Stone River. On December 23, 1868, Mr. Merriman was married to Josephine Potter, daughter of Lester and Miranda Potter, and came to his present farm in the spring of 1869. They have a happy family of five children: Albert, Levancha, Josie Ellis, Alice Pearl, and Charlie. Mr. Merriman is liberal in politics, and a genial and intelligent man.

ANDREW MAY, farmer, Paw Paw Grove, is a son of Peter and Catharine May, who came to Paw Paw, as elsewhere stated, in 1841.



Little did his father think at that early day, when he owned the claim for the site of nearly all of the present Paw Paw, that the day would come in his son's time when a single lot of that land would bring nearly a thousand dollars. Andrew was born in Sussex county, New York, May 28, 1834, and when seven years of age came to Paw Paw with his parents, and in 1846 went with them to their new farm at Malugin's Grove. At twenty-three years of age, in March 1857, Andrew started for himself, without a cent of capital, in Viola township, by buying eighty acres raw prairie, all on credit, being allowed six years' time with interest at ten per cent; went on it the following spring and improved and worked it until June 1865, when he sold it for thirty-five dollars an acre. In March, 1869, he bought 152 acres in Wyoming township, Secs. 6 and 7, and by hard work and patient industry has acquired a clear title to this farm and also improved it to some extent. It is now worth \$7,500. He has also on hand a good stock of cattle, horses, and sheep. So much for industry. He has five children: Thomas, Margaret, John, Edward, and Theodore, all at home. His youngest brother, Martin H., was born in Paw Paw and died in Andersonville prison in 1862.

LOWREN SPRAGUE, farmer, Paw Paw Grove, was born in Barnston, Lower Canada, August 21, 1828. His parents, Josiah and Fanny (Stowell) Sprague, with seven children, came to Paw Paw Grove in the spring of 1841. They rented land of William H. Robinson, now of Earl, and took up the claim adjoining it on the west, now owned and occupied by their son Lowren. Josiah Sprague was a veteran of 1812, a hard-working, straightforward, upright man. He lived to be eighty-two and had thirteen children. As Lowren was in his thirteenth year when the family came to Paw Paw Grove, his school experience is too interesting to omit. Of course he only went winters. His first teacher was one Adams, who wielded the birch and rule in a log cabin some twenty rods east of David A. Town's. His second school was taught by Robert Walker in the same cabin; his third by Willard Hastings in his own house at Fonda's corner; his fourth by one Basswood, in a log cabin where the old Wheeler house now stands; his fifth at Deacon O. Boardman's, in a frame school-house, 18x20, built where William Mayor's house now stands at South Side. In the spring of 1852 the subject of our sketch was one of eight or ten who went with Jacob Wheeler to California, Wheeler furnishing the team,—consisting of oxen and cows,—the rice and hard-tack, and charging each passenger \$100. Sprague was there about nine years. After his return he was married to Evaline Bowen, daughter of Daniel Bowen, December 10, 1865. He has a good farm yielding the best of crops. They have six children, two boys and four girls.



Young Resp<sup>t</sup>.  
James H. Braxton,



DEACON ISAAC E. HUNT, farmer and stock raiser, Paw Paw Grove, was a native of Indiana, born in Union county, November 11, 1819; a son of William H. and Elizabeth (Esteb) Hunt. His parents being in moderate circumstances, and with a quarter-section in the woods to clear and till, the boy's schooling was naturally limited, at an early age, to the winter seasons. About 1836 his father bought a tract of wild prairie in La Porte county. Thither the family moved, built a log house, and here Isaac worked till he was twenty-three, when he purchased a farm for himself in the same county. On February 20, 1844, he was married to Miss Eliza A. Patterson, of La Porte, Indiana. In the fall of 1852 he moved to Illinois, and bought the farm that he still owns and occupies, about one mile south of Paw Paw Grove. His wife died March 31, 1858, leaving three sons: George, William, and James. March 10, 1859, he was again married, to Ann Eliza McBride, daughter of Frederick McBride, of Wyoming township. The children by his second wife are four: Martha E., Fred R., Mary E. and Milton K. In April, 1864, George fell from a stack and was paralyzed. He lingered along till August 1, when he passed away; Mary died June 3, 1878; William is a farmer in Nebraska; the other children are all at home. Deacon Hunt united with the Baptist church in his twentieth year, and was appointed deacon of Paw Paw Baptist church in 1859. He was a Henry Clay whig, is now a republican, and believes in home manufactures. He has served as commissioner of highways, and several years as trustee of schools, and has always been ready to bear his part in the support of educational and religious institutions.

DR. JAMES H. BRAFFET, physician and surgeon, born in Florida, Orange county, New York, October 16, 1834, eldest of three children of James and Mellissa A. (Firman) Braffet, now residing in Compton, Illinois. He attended school at Chester Academy under Deacon Bros., late of the Chicago "Tribune," and his successor, Rev. Phineas Robinson, as principals, completing a scientific course as also one in civil engineering. He studied there with a view to a course at West Point, passed the required examination and received the requisite credentials; but at this point he concluded to pursue the study of medicine, which he began in 1853. In 1855 he came to Illinois and located at East Paw Paw. Here he followed surveying a year, then went into the practice of medicine, which he pursued until the session of 1860 and 1861, when he entered the Rush Medical College, Chicago. After this he was constantly in practice till the session of 1868 and 1869, when he entered the Bellevue Hospital Medical College, New York city, where he completed his college course. In 1868 he became a member of the Medico-Pathological Society, in 1878 a member of the North



Central Medical Association of Illinois, in 1879 of the Illinois State Medical Society, in 1880 of the American Medical Association. In the fall of 1860 he was married to Ellen S. Billings, of Shabbona, De Kalb county, Illinois, and daughter of Jas. M. Billings, now residing at Downsville, Dunn county, Wisconsin. Before leaving the east he was for five years a member of the Caliopean Literary Society, and for several years has been an honorary member of the Athenæum Literary Society, connected with the Classical Seminary of East Paw Paw. He has seven children: Nellie N., John J., Charles C., Mark M., James H., jr., Willie, and Essie.

THOMAS D. PALMER, physician and surgeon, Paw Paw Grove, was born August 15, 1846, and the only son of George and Catharine (Stetler) Palmer, of Dixon, Lee county, Illinois. He was educated at the Mt. Carroll and Dixon seminaries. During his seminary course he employed his vacations in the office of Drs. Hewitt and Spigler, at Franklin Grove, and in January, 1864, entered this office permanently as a regular student. At the session of 1865 and 1866 he entered the Chicago Medical College, and, graduating at the following session, received his diploma in the spring of 1867. In June of that year he came to Paw Paw, where he engaged in the practice of medicine. January 6, 1869, he was married to Mary E. Detamore, a true lady and daughter of Mrs. Susan P. Detamore, of that place. In the fall of 1872, at the completion of the railroad, in company with T. H. Stetler, he opened the first drug store of the village; Dr. Palmer continued in it about eight months and then sold to W. C. Runyan, the firm then being Stetler and Runyan. In the spring of 1877 he, in company with Dr. Stetler, opened the Palace Drug Store, now owned by Pierce and Barringer. He is now in his eighth year as Worshipful Master of Corinthian Lodge, No. 205, A. F. and A. M. He is also charter member of Rochelle Chapter, No. 158, was exalted to the degree of Royal Arch Mason, August 15, 1873, created a Sir Knight of Bethany Commandery, No. 28, March 6, 1874, received the thirty-second degree at the Chicago Consistory, October 15, 1875, and at the Grand Conclave of the Knights of the Red Cross of Rome and Constantine, convened in Chicago October 24, 1881, was elected Grand Junior General. With like enthusiasm in his profession Dr. Palmer is now taking a course of lectures at the Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia.

ANDREW H. ROSENKRANS, farmer, Paw Paw Grove, son of Abram and Lydia (Henry) Rosenkrans, was born in New York, March 10, 1835. His grandfather Rosenkrans was a soldier of 1812. Before he was able to remember his parents removed to New Jersey, where his mother died when he was four or five years old. He was raised on a farm until eighteen or nineteen years of age, when he began learning

the carpenter's trade, and worked at it as a business up to 1859. The residence of the family in New Jersey was of short duration. They went from there to Pennsylvania and lived about a dozen years, when he came west to Wyoming township, and was followed a little more than a year afterward by the others. Mr. Rosenkrans' arrival here was in 1853. In 1859 he started with a party, driving ox teams, for Pike's Peak; but meeting many returning from there who gave discouraging accounts of the prospects in that new place, and being too strong willed to turn back for ordinary discouragements, they all agreed to proceed to California, and did not stop till they reached the Pacific slope, the journey consuming five months. Mr. Rosenkrans had a brother who went to Pike's Peak just before he started; and died there the same summer. He remained in California a year and a half, and returned home by water. He was married October 15, 1863, to Miss Lydia A. Mittan, who was born October 29, 1839. Her parents were Jephtha P. and Jane (Beemer) Mittan, who settled in Willow Creek township about 1850. Mr. and Mrs. Rosenkrans have two sons: Anson P., born July 31, 1869; and Byron M., November 22, 1871. He is a republican, and a member of Anchor Lodge, No. 510, I.O.O.F. He owns a pleasantly situated farm of 240 acres, three miles northwest of Paw Paw, valued at \$12,000.

HENRY L. ROBERTS, farmer, Paw Paw Grove, son of Hendrick H. and Elizabeth (Scott) Roberts, was born in New Jersey in 1845. He was the third child in a family of ten. Four were sons, three of whom are living. The other, Crawford, was a member of the 1st Wis. Cav. in the late war, and died at Cape Girardeau, Wisconsin. Mr. Roberts came to Pavilion, Kendall county, in the spring of 1856, and in 1868 removed with his parents to Paw Paw, where they still reside. He is a republican in politics, and belongs to the Sons of Temperance and to the Good Templars. January 1, 1873, he was married to Miss Eva-leen Cornell, daughter of Harvey and Lura Cornell. She was born in 1856. Their three children are Crawford Leroy, born August 8, 1875; Etta May, October 11, 1877; and Lura, in August 1878.

WILLIAM P. HAMPTON, farmer, East Paw Paw, third child of James and Clarissa (McCarty) Hampton, was born in Canada, May 6, 1823. Three Hamptons came from England in the colonial period; one brother settled in Nova Scotia, one in New Jersey, and the other in South Carolina, from the latter of whom the talented and aristocratic family of that name in the Palmetto State has sprung. Mr. Hampton's grandfather McCarty was a militia captain and served in the second war for independence; he was taken prisoner by the British but escaped from Canada. His father was born in Pennsylvania and his mother in Saratoga, New York. The latter is still living. They

went to Canada in early life, were married there and had five sons and one daughter. His father moved with his family to Quincy, Illinois, in 1838, and on the breaking out of the Mexican war he enlisted in the military service and was sent to Santa Fé, where he died. Early in 1848 Mr. Hampton came to Lee county, and in the fall the rest of the family followed him. That season he cropped his present farm, but did not buy it. Next year he purchased 80 acres and afterward 40 more northeast of Paw Paw. In 1852 he crossed the plains to California, where he was married May 16, 1853, to Miss Amanda J. Weddell. She was born in Pennsylvania, June 24, 1823. Her grandfather Weddell emigrated from Wales before the revolution, and obtained a large tract of land between the Alleghany and Monongahela rivers. Her parents, Jesse and Nancy (Davis) Weddell, had five sons and four daughters. The mother is yet living. Both father and mother were born close to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The former was a soldier in the last war with England, served in Ohio, and fought in the Massinaway battles under Captain Jacob Walsh. In 1831 he settled in Indiana, and died there in 1838. He was born in 1780. In 1853 Mrs. Hampton, in company with her brother, P. M. Weddell, and Henry Zinn, left Goshen, Elkhart county, Indiana, where she had been reared, and went by steamship to California, sailing from New York on board the *Northern Light*; Tinklepaw, captain. They encountered a severe storm on the way to Greytown, and up the Niagara river; and after taking passage for San Francisco on board the *Independence*, met with a terrible disaster at sea. This steamer was burned off the island of St. Marguerite, and over 400 passengers were lost. Mrs. Hampton was bereft of her brother and their friend Zinn, and she herself was washed ashore, insensible, a distance of over a mile. Later, the steamer was driven onto the beach. Three days elapsed and the whaling vessel *Omega*, Captain Jeffrey, from Bedford, Maine, took the survivors off the island and conveyed them to their destination. The captain of the *Independence* was imprisoned 21 years for not beaching his boat and saving the passengers. Mr. Hampton returned with his wife and child to Illinois in the spring of 1855, and resumed the occupation of farming at his former home in Paw Paw township, De Kalb county. In 1866 he sold his farm there and removed to the place where he is now living, one mile north of East Paw Paw. This contains 117 acres, worth \$6,000. In 1871 he went south and traveled a few months in Florida, on a sight-seeing tour. Both himself and wife are members of the Congregational church. He is a republican and a Mason; and belongs to Spartan Lodge, No. 272, I.O.O.F., and has filled all the chairs.

BRITAIN J. AGLER, farmer, Paw Paw Grove, was born in Lycoming

county, Pennsylvania, in 1848, and was the youngest of five sons and four daughters by Jerome and Sarah (Brittain) Agler. His father came west in the spring of 1849 and located his family on the south side of Paw Paw Grove. Farming has always been Mr. Agler's occupation, and his home was never elsewhere than in Lee county, excepting a residence of three years at Mendota. He was married September 21, 1873, to Miss Mary E. Pulver, daughter of James F. and Sarah C. Pulver, of Paw Paw. Her birth was on April 18, 1852. Two children have been born to them, James J., April 13, 1874, and Fred W., September 7, 1879. Mrs. Agler is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church at South Paw Paw. He is a republican, and owns 178 acres of land in Sec. 2, Wyoming township, valued at \$8,000. Mr. Agler's brothers Joseph and John were volunteers in Co. K, 75th Ill. Vol. Inf., served their full term of three years, and bore a part in several memorable engagements.

ABJAH FLORENCE, farmer, Paw Paw Grove, was born in the town of Reading, Steuben county, New York, in 1823, and was the son of Peter and Elizabeth (Campbell) Florence. He was reared a farmer, and carried on lumbering in connection with that business several years. He was married in New York to Miss Mandane Smith, daughter of John and Clarissa (Fitch) Smith. She was born in 1832. In 1854 they moved to Paw Paw, and Mr. Florence bought his present home, which is the E.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of S.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 3, one mile north of the village. This homestead is worth \$4,000. They resided in Paw Paw until 1871, Mr. Florence farming his land meanwhile, but in that year removed to the farm. He is a republican, and has belonged to Anchor Lodge, No. 510, I.O.O.F., eight years. Mr. and Mrs. Florence have an only child, Clara.

CORNELIUS QUACKENBUSH, deceased, was born in Bergen county, New Jersey, November 18, 1825. His parents were Corinis and Jane (Post) Quackenbush. He was apprenticed to the carpenter's trade and followed it until he came west. His father followed agriculture, was a man of great business tact and industry, and accumulated a large fortune. On November 18, 1846, Mr. and Mrs. Quackenbush were united in marriage. The latter, daughter of David and Rachel (Westervelt) Christie, was born July 29, 1830. Her grandfather, David Christie, was a Scotchman by birth, and settled in New Jersey before the revolution. In the spring of 1851 her parents emigrated to this township and bought the place where James Fonda lives. In the spring of 1858 Mr. Quackenbush brought his family here, and the next year purchased the farm on which his widow resides, adjacent to Paw Paw on the north. He carried on this farm as long as he lived. From 1866 to 1869 he carried the mails between Earlville and Twin Groves; he then



moved his family to Shabbona Grove, and was mail carrier between there and Leland until 1873. He had four children: Jennie M., born November 26, 1850, married Dallas C. Breese October 29, 1867; David H., June 27, 1852, died September 14, 1874; Corinis, July 15, 1854, died August 24, 1855; and Renea, March 10, 1861, died October 13, 1864. Mrs. Quackenbush's father was born December 27, 1790, and for some years prior to his death was afflicted with physical infirmities, which affected his mind and caused temporary mental derangement. In one of these moods he ended his life by hanging, in July 1867. Her mother, who was born September 15, 1793, is still living, in tolerable health, in Mendota. These venerable parents had a family of eleven children. The eldest was David, who lives on a part of the old homestead. John was a surveyor and school teacher, at one time was book-keeper and paymaster on the Illinois and Michigan canal, and died of consumption not long after the family emigrated to this state. Ralph lives at Mendota, unmarried. James, who married the youngest daughter of Joshua Swarthout, lives in Missouri. One died in infancy. The daughters were Betsy, Rachel, Anna, Irene, Jane, and Ann Maria.

THOMAS W. MARBLE, farmer, East Paw Paw, was born in Ontario county, New York, July 11, 1826, and was the fourth in a family of seven children by Thomas and Katie (Wintfield) Marble. His brothers and sisters were Levi, Lucinda, Phebe, Asenath, Serephna, and Ephraim. When he was ten years old his father died, and his mother married Thomas Burgess. By this second marriage four more children were born, namely: Julia, John, Benjamin, and Rhoda. In 1831 the family moved to Cuyahoga county, Ohio, and it was there that Mr. Marble's father died, in April 1836. They settled on the Cleveland and Pittsburgh turnpike, on 160 acres located in a dense forest. This land is now all cleared and has been parceled out to the heirs, who have sold their inheritance. His mother is living on her portion of the old homestead, at the advanced age of eighty-one. Mr. Marble went to work at carpentering at sixteen, and followed his trade until his removal to Illinois in 1856. He settled in Paw Paw township, De Kalb county, resided there five years, then moved to his present home in East Paw Paw. He was engaged in farming the first seven years of his residence in Illinois; the rest of the time he has been engaged in carpentry. He has been constable since his settlement in this county twenty years ago; was deputy sheriff four years under Jonathan Hills; and has twice been collector. Politically he is a republican. He has been a Mason twenty-three years, and is a member of Corinthian Lodge, No. 205, A.F. and A.M. His marriage with Miss Susannah B. Le Moin, daughter of Eleazer D. and Rebecca Le Moin, took place

October 11, 1845. She was born in 1824. Their four sons are Emery H., Butler, Henry, and Lewis. The first enlisted in December 1862, in Co. I, 4th Ill. Cav., and served his full term of three years without accident or injury. He campaigned in the southwest, and in the spring of 1863 went on Grierson's famous raid, one of the most brilliant and successful made during the whole war. He married Miss Mary Beckwith, of Texas, and has two children. Henry married Miss Emma Shufelt, and they have one bright little girl, Mirtie May.

OREN MARBLE, blacksmith, East Paw Paw, was born in New York in 1814, and was the son of Lucius and Mary (Olds) Marble. His father died when he was eight years old, and at the age of fourteen he went to live with a man who was a blacksmith by trade. After being with him one year, and partly learning to be a craftsman, he went to doing for himself, and until he was twenty-five found employment at various avocations. In 1832 he settled in Ohio, and the same year was married to Miss Lois Marble, whose natal year was the same as his own. In Ohio he finished his apprenticeship and worked most of the time at the blacksmith business; in 1845 he removed to Lake county, this state, and in 1867, to his present home at East Paw Paw. Mr. and Mrs. Marble have been the parents of seven children, as follows: Lavina, William, Martha (dead), James (dead), Franklin (dead), Angeline (dead), and Wyman. Mrs. Marble is a communicant in the Methodist church. Mr. Marble has held the offices of town clerk, road commissioner, constable, and justice of the peace, and is a member of Spartan Lodge, No. 272, I.O.O.F. His son Wyman belongs to the same lodge. In 1853 Mr. Marble went overland to California, helped to drive 122 head of cattle across the plains, remained two years on the Pacific coast, and returned by way of Panama and New York. He was originally a whig, but since that party went out of existence has been a republican.

HARRIS D. MERWINE, deceased, was born in Pennsylvania May 3, 1821, of German ancestry. His father was a tiller of the soil, and he, at the proper age, began to learn the millwright's trade, which he followed near Mauch Chunk until the summer of 1849. On June 19 of that year he was married to Miss Thurza Morris, of Tunkhannock, Wyoming county, Pennsylvania. Her father was Isaac Morris. Immediately after this marriage Mr. and Mrs. Merwine and her father's family started west and stopped at Paw Paw, or "Mormon Corners." They erected a house together in what is now the west part of the town, on land purchased from Jacob Rogers, and the next year Mr. Merwine built a wagon shop, in which he labored until his health failed in 1856. He was then elected constable and collector for Wyoming, but did not long hold these offices, being removed by death April 20,

1857. He was a republican and an Odd-Fellow. He was a useful and respected citizen, whose character was in every way above reproach, and whose memory is spoken of to this day in excellent terms. On the death of Mr. Merwine, Mrs. Merwine's parents came to live with her. The mother died in 1874. Mrs. Merwine was left a widow with three children: Irene married A. R. Haskell and lives in Michigan; Albert is station agent at Amboy, and Anna died in 1870.

ALVA R. HARP, restaurateur, Paw Paw Grove, was born in Miami county, Indiana, in 1839. His father, Samuel, and his mother, Jane (Butler), were among the earliest settlers in that county. The father still resides there, and the mother was a second cousin to the late President James A. Garfield. In 1856 Mr. Harp came to Willow Creek township. After spending one summer here, and returning to Indiana for a short visit, he went to Missouri and remained eighteen months. One-third of this time was occupied in teaching school, and the remainder saw him station agent at Miller's Landing, on the Pacific railroad. He now returned to Indiana for a brief sojourn, then to Willow Creek, where he was married in February 1859, to Miss Amanda E., daughter of Jesse Koons. At the end of two or three years' residence in that township he moved to Minnesota, where he and his wife, whose good courage and endurance were tested and served them well, encountered as great hardships as have fallen to the lot of few pioneers. In a year the Indian war broke out and Mrs. Harp returned to Illinois, but her husband tarried behind a few months. He was employed six months at Fort Snelling, first as teamster and then as cook. On his return to Willow Creek he made his home there with his family again two or three years: after which he moved to Iowa, and spent some three years in that state. He once more found his way back to Willow Creek, and subsequently settled in West Paw Paw. This was in 1872, and was his last removal. During his changes from place to place he had been most of the time employed at farming. On coming to this village he at once set up in the dry-goods trade, and soon took Andrew Rosenkranz as partner, to whom he sold his interest in a few months. He now opened a restaurant on the south side of Main street, which was the first business house ever erected there. He was once subsequently in the dry-goods trade, in which venture he failed; he was in the butchering business fifteen months, and altogether has had six restaurants. Accompanied by his wife, in 1879 he traveled by wagon in Iowa, Missouri, Kansas and Nebraska, his journey extending from September 22 until the following January. These parents have two children, Nellie, who is twenty-one years of age, and Samuel, now sixteen. Mr. Harp is a republican, and a member of Anchor Lodge, No. 510, I.O.O.F., and of Paw Paw Encampment, No. 52.

JAMES LITTLE, retired, Paw Paw Grove, born in Dumfriesshire, Scotland, in November 1815, is the only surviving son of Walter and Helen (Johnston) Little. When James was old enough he was kept at school for some years, and then began work in gardens and nurseries of fruit and forest trees. In the summer of 1833, in company with an elder brother, he came to America, landed at Quebec, came up to Toronto, was there and elsewhere in Canada about a year and a half, and then came to Buffalo, New York, where they soon after met their parents. Two brothers, Andrew and William, followed to America, and settled in the same city. James worked in gardens in the summer season till the spring of 1838, when the whole family, except John, the eldest son, moved to Illinois and took up a claim in what is now Brooklyn, in Lee county. His father died two months after they settled, but the family remained on the place. James and William worked out a part of the time for the first two years till they had their farm on the prairie broken up, and when the land came into market James and William bought the claim. Andrew bought his claim in Viola. In 1846 James bought William's interest in the farm, but shared the home with his mother and brother. In the fall of 1848 he sold the farm, and the following spring moved to East Paw Paw, where he purchased a share in the store of S. B. Warren. His mother died that summer, in July, and soon after her death James had a tombstone set up which marks the graves of both father and mother, and under their names the following verse from Hervey's "Meditations":

"Centered in Christ, who fires the soul within,  
The flesh shall know no pain, the soul no sin.  
E'en in the terrors of expiring breath  
We bless the friendly stroke, and live in death."

He remained with Warren some two years. In closing up the affairs of the firm Mr. Little commenced the business of loaning money, which he has continued to the present time. In 1861 he bought the house and lot where he now resides, at Paw Paw. In 1871 he was married to Harriet Bolles, second child of Dr. Alexander H. Bolles, of Tunkhannock, Wyoming county, Pennsylvania.

GEORGE S. HUNT, M.D., deceased, was the first regular medical practitioner at Paw Paw Grove and throughout the surrounding country. He was the son of William H. and Elizabeth (Esteb) Hunt; was born in southern Indiana, June 30, 1817; educated at La Porte, Indiana; graduated at the medical college of that city in class of 1845, and married that year, in May, to Louisa Ward, of Paw Paw Grove, daughter of Samuel Ward, formerly of Onondaga county, New York. Dr. Hunt commenced the practice of medicine at Paw Paw Grove in 1844. His ride soon became very extensive, taking in all the groves within



reach. His estimable wife often accompanied him, and drove the team, so he might sleep in the carriage. She says "there were at this time no roads, and often no trail or trace, and only his mind's eye to guide him." He wore himself out, and died in 1855 in the town of Pompey, State of New York, while on a visit for recuperation. The beautiful residence of his widow, at South Paw Paw, still evidences Dr. Hunt's good taste, and ability to design and plan. Their only child is Hannah E., wife of John Baker, of Paw Paw. Mrs. Hunt's mother, Hannah Ward, now in her eighty-fifth year, is living with Mrs. Hunt.

IRA BAKER, farmer, retired, Paw Paw Grove, was born in the county of Schoharie, New York, January 14, 1814, and was the eldest of seven children of Silas and Catharine (Bungier) Baker. His father was a lumberman and farmer, working at the one in winter and the other in summer, so that between the two there remained little chance of schooling for his boys. When Ira was seventeen he bought his time for \$150, which he subsequently earned by working out by the month. In the summer of 1834, in his twenty-first year, he came west to what is now Jersey county, Illinois. One Spanish dollar constituted his stock in trade when he commenced his western life, but his capital comprised also those traits of character that inevitably insure success. He split rails at three shillings a hundred, and could make just one hundred a day. From this pittance his board, and postage, at two shillings a letter, had to be met. April 2 of the following spring he was married to Sarah, daughter of John Wilkins, of that county. Farming in suitable weather, and turning the balance of his time to account in making oak shingles, thus, by constant hard work and the most rigid economy, he was able in those days to obtain a bare livelihood. About this time he carried the mail over a route of some twenty miles, crossing the Mississippi. His flat-boat experiences and adventures, as narrated to the writer, were fraught with lively interest. In that early day a house with a window in it was a rare exception. Nothing of importance save hard work and low prices occurred till the spring of 1848, when he moved to Chicago to educate his children a term or two, and continued his shingle business there. The next winter he moved to Wyoming township. Here for about thirty-two years he farmed from 120 to 240 acres. In 1877 he built his village residence, corner of Peru and Wheeler streets. He was commissioner of highways several years; also collector. As an official he was one who did business correctly, but he usually declined all solicitations to be a candidate for any office. In his dealings he has been wont to repose confidence in men, often loaning without even a note, and with no security; yet, strange to say, \$25 would more than cover all his

losses from betrayed confidence. He believes in making the most unprincipled man feel that he is yet a *man*. He joined the Methodist Episcopal church forty-two years ago, in the days of Peter Cartwright. He had two sons in the army: Ira W. served three years in Co. K, 75th reg. Ill. Inf., was in the terrible battles from Franklin to Atlanta, where he was wounded, but not seriously disabled; John was in the service the closing year of the war. Of fifteen children twelve are still living, and their father says of them what every parent would gladly be able to say, "I am proud of every one of them."

JOHN B. BRIGGS, hair manufacturer, Paw Paw Grove, was born in Anson, Somerset county, Maine, March 22, 1836. He lived in his native town till the summer of 1846, when he departed with his parents, Adin and Susan (Cottle), for the Far West, and arrived at Grand Detour, Ogle county, in July. The family remained in the vicinity of that place and Washington Grove five years, engaged in farming. John's advantages for education were very limited, but while there he improved the winters to attend the district school. In 1851 his father moved his family to Willow Creek township, this county, where he preëmpted the S.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 14, and the following spring died. John, the eldest son, now sixteen, took charge of the farm, and was henceforth the main dependence of the large family. When the preëmption expired he and his mother paid the price of the land from the first crop of wheat, and received a patent from the government. At this time one of the brothers came into possession of half the land, and when the division was afterward made the remainder was evenly divided between the other two. John then bought his brother's share of forty acres. When Mr. Briggs came to Willow creek the country was nowhere improved, save by a meager population located around the groves, and it was so little transformed from its original wildness that in going from his home to Twin Groves he has counted at one time forty deer, and frequently from under his window barking wolves startled the night air with piercing yelps, and gave the household hideous serenade. In 1864 Mr. Briggs was married in Lexington, Somerset county, Maine, to Miss Alfreda Pierce. He returned with his bride and settled on the old homestead, where they lived until 1873, when he sold his farm. During the next two years he made his home in Chicago, being engaged in trade and carpentry. Since that time he has resided at Paw Paw. His wife died some years ago. On March 31, 1877, he was married again, to Miss Eliza Town, youngest daughter of Russell and Roxana Town. By his first marriage he had three children: Obed W. survives, the others were buried in infancy. Since settling in Paw Paw he has been most of the time employed in traveling, and manufacturing and selling hair goods, and is now doing

a larger business in this line than any other person west of Chicago. By this means he has obtained an extensive acquaintance. He is a steward in the Methodist church at Paw Paw, and a republican in politics.

S. A. ABBOTT, cooper and dealer in all kinds of cooperage, Paw Paw Grove; born at Londonderry, Windham county, Vermont, May 25, 1825. He was the youngest of twelve children of Jacob and Abigail (Dutton) Abbott. His father was in five battles in the war of 1812, and came out of the battle of Plattsburg with seven bullet holes through his close-fitting shirt. In his leisure hours during the war he made himself useful by mending shoes for officers and soldiers, and in this way earned and saved up one hundred silver half dollars. Having enlisted for five years, there still remained fourteen months of his term when that war closed, and to escape a long, tedious march to the Rocky mountains and back he used his hundred half dollars to secure a substitute. He received his land warrant and held it till his son was eighteen, but it called for land to be selected "away out in Illinois," or farther west, and the son regarded that as out of the civilized world, and would not accept as a gift the rich prairie that he has since learned to prize most highly. Young Abbott's school days were quite limited, yet he seems to have made the most of them. At thirteen commenced working out: was with his first employer twenty-one months, including three months' schooling. Doubtless, little did that kind-hearted employer then realize that in future years, when nearly a half century should have elapsed, the recollections of his almost paternal kindness to the stranger lad would be still so fresh in a grateful memory as to choke utterance and moisten the eyes. His sixteenth and seventeenth years were employed in a hotel. In the fall of 1842 he hired out to drive a six-horse team from Chester, Vermont, to Boston, one hundred and ten miles. Six tons was an average load. In this work he took great delight: his horses seemed to understand his word perfectly, and he used no rein. He thought he had found his life work: but lo, the iron horse changed many a fate. In the spring of his twenty-first year he began learning the trade of carpenter and joiner; but in that country of long winters he could work at his trade but seven months in the year, so he found employment in a hotel the remaining five, and this course he followed for seven years. In the spring of 1854 he came west to La Salle, Illinois, where he worked at his trade, and that fall made a visit to friends near Paw Paw Grove. Delighted with the country, he at once purchased a farm, and on New Year's day laid the sills for his house. In June, 1855, he was married to Hannah C. Bailey, daughter of Miles S. Bailey. In 1860 both united with the Methodist Episcopal church at South Paw Paw, and since then were transferred

to the church at Paw Paw. A veteran Sunday-school superintendent, class leader for twenty years, sharing his genial home most happily with his wife's parents a quarter century, surely Mr. Abbott's life has been no failure. He is a republican and P.G.W. in Anchor Lodge, I.O.O.F.

MARSHALL R. REAMS, merchant, Paw Paw Grove, was born in Ross county, Ohio, December 15, 1850, and the only child of William and Ellen (Bowen) Reams. When he was three years old the family moved to Illinois and settled near Paw Paw, where his mother died the following year. His schooling was confined to the home district school and ended at eighteen. At twenty-one he commenced clerking; was employed successively by Jacob Hendershot, John Colvill and W. C. Runyan; was in partnership a year with Henry Potter in general merchandising, and in April, 1881, commenced for himself in the same business. He was married March 28, 1875, to Libbie Sanford, of this place. They have two children: Wilbur Pratt, born March 1, 1877, and Frederick William, born October 7, 1879.

ALEXANDER FIELD, liveryman, Paw Paw Grove, proprietor of the well-rigged livery stable east of the Paw Paw House, is one of the old and respected citizens of the place. He was born at Chester, Vermont, October 3, 1826, and the youngest of ten children of Robert W. and Lydia M. Field. Having spent his youth in the usual way, between the school and the farm, he looked about a little through Michigan and Wisconsin, came to Lee county, Illinois, in his twenty-first year, and bought land from the government in Secs. 26 and 27. In August, 1849, he married Louisa Rumsey, daughter of Isaac Rumsey, of Sullivan, Tioga county, Pennsylvania. He made his financial start in California, whence he returned in 1854. His father, living with him at this time, died in 1858. He sold his farm in 1870, and in 1872 bought his present residence. He was for a time engaged in the heavy work of drayman, but his health failing in 1875, he commenced the livery business. For this he seems to be well fitted, and his business is thriving. He is republican in politics and a zealous Odd-Fellow, having filled all the offices of that order, both of the subordinate and the encampment. Mr. and Mrs. Field have the reputation of being among the most accommodating and kind-hearted of citizens. They have no children living; have buried two, Addie and Zillia.

AMOS SIGLIN, Paw Paw Grove, is one of those industrious, enterprising men who are the bone and sinew of a live town. He is a genial Pennsylvanian, born in the township of Chestnut Hill, and county of Northampton. His father, Jacob Siglin, a veteran of 1812, was wounded at New Orleans under General Jackson, and died when Amos was but eleven years old. His mother's maiden name was Susannah Singer;



she lived to the great age of ninety-seven years, ten months, and two days. Amos when a boy loved to work, but was not particularly fond of books, and he had to go three miles to school; so after the death of the father the preference of the boy rather than his real good was too often regarded, and his schooling became too frequently a secondary matter. On the farm till he was sixteen, he then went to the trade of carpenter and joiner, and followed it till he came west in 1855. That fall he purchased the farm he now owns in Sec. 29, Willow Creek township. During the winter of 1873 he dealt quite extensively in butter, live stock, etc., at Paw Paw. Before coming west, in 1851, he was married to Catharine, daughter of William and Barbara Sutton, both of whom died at Paw Paw at an advanced age in 1879. The buildings on Mr. Siglin's farm are of his own workmanship; he also built his Paw Paw residence, in 1876, and with Mr. Lester Potter, in 1880, erected the brick block known as the Siglin and Potter block. On the night of July 30, 1881, a high wind stripped off about half of the iron roofing from this building, demolishing coping, awning, etc. The cost of repairs was about \$350. Mr. and Mrs. Siglin have four children: Mary Elizabeth (Mrs. Wm. H. Smith), Dolly (Mrs. Adolphus Fisher, of Ogle county), William Siglin, of the firm of Wm. Merrell & Co., and Barbara. Mr. Siglin is in full sympathy with both Odd-Fellows and Masons, being a member of each order. He has always voted the democratic ticket.

SAMUEL C. MITCHELL, dealer in hardware, Paw Paw Grove, born at Bedford, Hillsborough county, New Hampshire, November 3, 1835, was the fifth of twelve children of Dwella W. and Eliza D. (Smith) Mitchell. At ten years of age he had never had a day's schooling nor even been taught his letters. He walked two and a half miles and back each day for all his schooling, save six weeks at an institute at nineteen. Commencing with A B C, his progress was constant and rapid; at the end of three months he was in the fourth reader. For four years he had six months annually, after that only three, and worked out on farms the other nine. The night before he was twenty-one he delivered up to his father the last farthing of his earnings, received in turn a suit of clothes, and this, with reputation, brains, brave heart and brawny hands, constituted his sole capital with which to start for himself. "But," says he to the writer, "'Twas the best thing that could have been done for me." After working one summer on a farm, and teaming that winter, the spring of 1858 found him on a farm in DeKalb county, Illinois, in the employ of Augustus Breese, with whom he remained four years, and whose daughter Emily he married in 1864. From 1862 to 1872 he rented and worked a farm; then was in the hardware business nine months in Iowa, when seeing "as with pro-

phetic eye," the promising opening for business at Paw Paw, he sold out, came to this place, and opened his present hardware store. He has three children, the youngest named after President Garfield. Mr. Mitchell is a Mason, an official member of the Presbyterian church, and a man who has the respect of his townsmen. His parents are still living, and are on the old homestead in the Old Granite State.

JOHN PATRICK, retired, was born in Luzerne county, Pennsylvania, August 7, 1808. The names of his parents were Abel and Elizabeth (Hurlbutt), and they were natives of Connecticut. His father was a soldier in the revolutionary war, and his grandfather came from France. John was the youngest of seven children. His education was limited, not attending school over three months in the year. The country was new, and there was plenty of hard work on his father's farm, where he stayed till he was twenty-five. He then engaged a short time in a store, afterward in a hotel, and visited the west. In October, 1836, he married Celinda Earl, and for two years they were connected with a hotel. His wife and child died, and in 1838 he returned to his old home in Pennsylvania. For four or five years he was in a store, and in 1841 married Miss Mary Harris, of Columbia county, Pennsylvania. After being on a farm for a time, in the spring of 1845 they came to Sycamore, Illinois, and in February, 1846, settled in Wyoming. At that time there was not a mile of railroad in Illinois. The farm he purchased then was the N.W.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of N.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 36, and the S.W.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of S.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 25. He lived here thirty years, except for two years when the family resided temporarily at East Paw Paw, so that the children could attend school there. In March, 1876, his second wife died. In January, 1879, he married Miss S. A. Wilson, of Paw Paw. Four children were born to his second wife, two of whom are now living: Mrs. Harriet C. Mirick, in Kansas, who has three children, and Mrs. Gertrude E. Agler, of Paw Paw, who has one child. One who knows Mr. Patrick from his youth says of him: "He has seen hard times enough to sink most men, but through tireless energy and dauntless will has attained a goodly measure of success." He is an Odd-Fellow, and has held prominent positions in various organizations.

ASAHEL PRENTICE, farmer and stock raiser, Paw Paw Grove, is another of the staunch farmers and stalwart men of whom Wyoming is justly proud. Mr. Prentice hails from the old Bay State, where, in the town of Chester, in Hampden county, he was born June 6, 1833. His parents were Ephraim and Susan (Bisbee) Prentice. He was there twenty-three years, with the usual advantages of the district schools of those days, and four months at Williston Seminary, at Easthampton. He was brought up a farmer, and came to Wyoming township in the fall of 1856, and the following year, in November, was

married to Amanda M., daughter of James C. and Euphemia (Marshall) Sproul, of Montour county, Pennsylvania. Nearly a quarter of a century has elapsed since, on the wild prairie one mile north of the township line, they began life together. They now have a good farm, well stocked and improved, a commodious new house, with excellent cellar and conveniences for dairying, six children, hale, hearty and strong, all at home, and apparently a pleasant home, where kindred hearts beat in unison, and all are willing to work for the common good. The children are Sarah E., James C., Henry Mortimer, Joseph D., William M. S., and Lena May. Mr. Prentice is a republican, but says he honors a good, straight democrat. He is both a Mason and an Odd-Fellow, having his membership at West Paw Paw. From 1872 to 1878 he served the town as a commissioner of highways.

GEORGE W. MILLER, farmer, Paw Paw Grove, was born in Luzerne county, Pennsylvania, December 12, 1853, and was the son of William and Eliza K. (Vosburgh) Miller. He came west with his parents and settled in Viola township, having first stopped a short time in La Salle county. When he was sixteen years old his father sold his farm and bought another in Wyoming township, on Sec. 6. Mr. Miller remained at home until twenty-four years of age, and on October 5, 1878, was married to Miss Alice Mittan, daughter of J. P. Mittan. In the autumn of 1879 he took charge of his father's farm of 175 acres, at the head of Willow creek. Mr. and Mrs. Miller's two children are Minnie E. and Carrie May. He is a republican in politics.

A. C. RADLEY, farmer and town clerk, Paw Paw Grove, was born January 14, 1827, at Florida, Montgomery county, New York. His father was the late John J. Radley, who died at Earlville in the summer of 1881. Anderson, the subject of our sketch, was the eldest son, and his father was an invalid for many years. For these reasons the son's schooling was quite limited. Not till he was twenty-four years of age did he surrender the care of the old homestead. After working a rented farm in his native state some four years, and another in Batavia, Illinois, for two years, in the spring of 1858 he came to Wyoming township, and purchased the eighty acres of wild prairie which he has since transformed into the Eden Home, where he still resides. On December 14, 1862, he was married to Miss Mary B. Hayden, of Jackson county, Michigan; but she was taken away October 7, 1865, leaving a son about two years of age. On May 9, 1866, he was married to Martha, daughter of Frederick and Mary McBride of this township. Mr. Radley was one of those who organized the Paw Paw Presbyterian church, and has been a ruling elder and trustee from that time to date. An Odd-Fellow for more than a quarter of a cen-



*Wm M Shader*





tury, he instituted Anchor Lodge at Paw Paw, and has served four times as representative to the Grand Lodge. In 1881 he was elected town clerk, and in July spent one whole day signing the new railroad bonds.

NELSON LANE, deceased, was born in Ulster county, New York, January 29, 1810, and in 1830 came to Luzerne county, Pennsylvania. In 1831 he married Sally Ann Tripp, daughter of Job Tripp, from Providence, Rhode Island. Lumbering was his main dependence while in the Keystone State. In the fall of 1853 he emigrated to Illinois, arriving at Paw Paw October 14. Hard work and good management soon began to tell. Renting a farm near Crompton, and purchasing another near Brooklyn, the crop from the former put a good house on the latter, and that 80 acres costing then \$2.50 per acre was sold in 1875 at \$60 per acre. Mr. Lane died August 27, 1874. Of four children three are still living: the daughter, Julia, is now Mrs. Edwin R. Case, of Paw Paw. The two sons, Job T. and Nelson F., were both in the service of their country; the former was a member of Co. I, 15th Ill. Inf., and the latter of Co. C, 13th reg. Mrs. Lane now resides at Paw Paw.

FERNANDO H. CHAFFE, farmer and stock raiser, Paw Paw Grove, is a man of marked business ability, and one of Wyoming's heaviest capitalists. He was a son of Eber and Annie (Davis) Chaffe, and born in Windham county, Vermont, November 21, 1827. In his twelfth year the family emigrated to Compton, Kane county, Illinois. In the spring of his twenty-fifth year he went to California, where in mining and milling for four years and six months he acquired a sufficient sum to give him a good start in business. His health being quite poor when he returned to Compton in the fall of 1856, he remained there for about two years recruiting and loaning money. Meanwhile, on July 15, 1858, he was married to Delia Barber, daughter of Lahira and Annis Barber, of Compton. Some years before this he had deeded from the government a tract of 240 acres in Lee county, four miles south of Paw Paw; coming onto this he began breaking the prairie and making himself a home. Since then he has bought 200 acres adjoining, and sold 40. His present farm of 400 acres, with first-class buildings, and other improvements to correspond, is delightfully located on the brow of a hill, with a fine prospect, and is reputed to be one of the finest farms in Wyoming township. Mr. Chaffe puts about 300 acres each year in grains and clover. They have had eleven children, and buried three; Abbie F. is now Mrs. William Tabor, Edmund W. is a fine musician, now taking lessons under Matthews, in Chicago; Elmer S., Wilbur T., Ella N., Minnie A. and John F. are at home. An infant, "angel of the household," is not yet named.

Marcia M. and Ernest died in infancy, and Carrie B. died in the fall of 1880.

LESTER POTTER, deceased, was a man remarkable for his untiring energy and enterprise; oldest of six children of William and Mary (Pease) Potter. He was born August 5, 1824, in Middletown, Connecticut, acquired as good schooling as he could till he was sixteen, then for sixteen years was managing a Pennsylvania farm summers, and at home, ship-carpentering, winters. In 1847 he was married to Miranda Andrews, youngest child of John and Sarah Andrews, of Salem, Pennsylvania. In 1856 they moved to Illinois, where he purchased a farm two and a half miles west of Paw Paw. In 1864 he bought another near Malugin's Grove, and in 1868 a third in Willow Creek township. On July 7, 1872, he received the first shipment of lumber and coal brought to Paw Paw by railroad. Thus commenced his extensive business on Peru street, which he carried on for several years. In 1875 he also engaged in the furniture business, on Maine street, and the next year built a store to accommodate his growing trade. He also became an owner in several mines in Colorado, and to these he gave personal attention during portions of 1877, and the year following. In 1880 he and Mr. Amos Siglin erected the Siglin and Potter Brick Block, into which he moved a stock of goods purchased of W. C. Runyan, and added general merchandising to his large list of enterprises. Mr. Potter was one of the few who could keep many irons in the fire from early youth to three score without allowing any to burn. He was also one who identified himself with the growth and prosperity of the town, belonging to no religious organization, yet he contributed liberally to the support of all. Early in May 1881, while at Chicago, he was taken seriously ill, and his death occurred on the 26th of the same month. A large concourse of friends and citizens followed his remains to the Ellsworth Cemetery. His four surviving children are all married, and all, with their very worthy mother, now reside in or near Paw Paw.

JOHN BRITTAI, pioneer (deceased). (By his nephew, John T. Brittain.) John Brittain was born in 1803, in Lycoming county, Pennsylvania. He followed lumbering, and was an efficient deputy sheriff. He emigrated to Illinois and settled near Alton about 1840, and not long after went into the pineries, followed lumbering, and in company with others ran a large mill, doing a heavy business. But sickness compelled him to leave affairs temporarily to others, who pocketed large amounts and left for parts unknown, and Mr. Brittain found himself and family destitute in the city of St. Louis. As soon as he accumulated sufficient funds again he bought two land warrants and located them in Wyoming township. He acted as justice of the peace

for several years, and took quite an active interest in the union cause during the rebellion. A son died at Fort Donelson from over exertion. While an officer of Wyoming, about 1863, he received a dispatch to aid in arresting two horse-thieves; he reluctantly consented; he was fired upon, and one of the men was shot. Some reflections being cast upon him he demanded a trial, was acquitted, no one appearing against him. He died very suddenly, some thought from apoplexy, caused by the excitement and anxiety, others thought he was poisoned.

WILLIAM J. BRITTAI, farmer, Paw Paw Grove, was born March 22, 1845, at Delhi, Jersey county, Illinois, and is the son of John and Elizabeth Brittain. When about eighteen years of age he started for himself. He lived on the home farm with John, his elder brother and his mother, and worked for her and others. On January 31, 1869, he married Ann Madison, of Paw Paw, a very worthy daughter of James and Mary Madison. Her father was killed by a fall from a building in Ohio when she was about two years old. Two children, Corda and Mabel, bless their union. Mr. Brittain is a staunch republican and an Odd-Fellow.

WILLIAM MAYOR, farmer, Paw Paw Grove, was born in the county of Lancashire, England, December 3, 1820. Being one of a large family, and put at work in early life, his schooling all told would not amount to a year. May 21, 1841, he landed in New York. Brigham Young came on the same vessel, and as they neared the port the pilot-boat brought the sad intelligence of the death of President Harrison. Going immediately to Albany, he worked in that city two years and five months; thence to Columbus, where he worked two years and seven months for the state on the Ohio canal; thence to Dayton, and worked for James Seville, a farmer, nearly three years, and married his daughter, Sarah Ann Seville, September 4, 1848. He worked this farm till 1854, when he moved to Paw Paw, Illinois, where his wife died in 1874. March 28, 1880, he married Mrs. Nancy Kelly. His children are: James W., the harness-maker at Paw Paw; Mary Ann, wife of David Thomas, living at south side of the grove, and Sarah Jane, living at home. One daughter, Lucy Adelaide, died in 1879. The length of time Mr. Mayor has been wont to stay with his employers indicates that he was a faithful, competent workman, and the enormous crops observed by the writer on his excellent farm show that he is still a good farmer. His farm is the "Elder Warriner farm," at the south side of the grove.

LORD JONES, retired from business, Paw Paw Grove, was the son of Lewis and Sarah (Benedict) Jones, who were among the first settlers in the Wyoming Valley, and his grandfather Benedict baptized the first white child ever baptized in the Susquehanna. Lord was



born in Exeter, Luzerne county, Pennsylvania, July 9, 1805. When quite young he was naturally ingenious with tools; would split sticks and fasten together, constructing a house such as would challenge the skill of mature years. He never learned a trade regularly, by serving an apprenticeship, yet became a good carpenter. He was married January 6, 1830, to Phebe, daughter of Maj. Ezekiel Goble. In 1848 they emigrated to Paw Paw Grove. Here the Goble family was a numerous family of grand, early pioneers, who doubtless did not a little in giving shape to the tastes and customs of the settlement about Paw Paw Grove. Two brothers and three sisters, and the parents too, all with families, were here gathered at Jacob Rogers' to greet the Jones family at the end of their thirty-three days' journey, and under the cottonwood trees at the Rogers place forty-one kindred friends sat down to the first dinner. Gobles, Boardmans, Rogerses and Towns, including their thirty children, were present at this reunion. The Joneses settled on a farm in Secs. 8 and 9. Three sons of this worthy family espoused the cause of their country. Their first-born, Theodore S., enlisted in 1861 in Co. D, 1st Ill. Art. Over-exertion and exposure at the battle of Vicksburg, brought on fatal disease. He started for home, was for several weeks confined to the hospital in St. Louis, and died of congestive chills at Schofield's barracks. Orlando B. Jones enlisted in 1862 in Co. K, 75th reg. Ill. Inf., and served till the end of the war; though knocked down by a spent ball, hitting him directly over his heart, his strap and blanket saved his life. Benjamin A. enlisted in January 1864. Five sons and two daughters are still living. Their entire family are republican in sentiment and belong to the Baptist church.

W. A. PRATT, druggist, Paw Paw Grove, was born at Deep river, Connecticut, October 5, 1853. He was the son of Henry H. and Mary (Comstock) Pratt. In the spring of 1856 the family moved to Illinois, and settled in De Kalb county, on a farm near Sandwich. Here he made good use of the advantages afforded by the district school, supplemented by the graded high schools, until he was eighteen. The winter of 1870 and 1871 was saddened by the death of his mother. The following spring he entered the drug store of A. H. Palmer, of Sandwich, where he spent three years learning the business. In the spring of 1874 he came to Paw Paw, and entered the employ of W. C. Runyan. In the fall of 1877 he bought out the business and stock of goods and opened trade in his own name. In January, 1878, he was married to Mary E., daughter of Isaac J. and Harriet E. Berry. His business increasing, in November, 1880, he moved into the new Siglin & Potter block, where he has one of the best arranged and most complete drug stores in Lee county. In politics Mr. Pratt is republican.

He is an Odd-Fellow, and treasurer of Anchor Lodge, No. 510, I.O.O.F. He has one child.

JACOB HENDERSHOT, merchant, Paw Paw Grove, is one of the well-known business men of Paw Paw. Born at Washingtonville, Montour county, Pennsylvania, November 22, 1832. His father's name was Evan and his mother's Margaret C. (McBride). In 1840 his parents moved to Limestoneville, whence Jacob soon after went to live with his grandmother at Whitehall, staying with her till he was fourteen. To the common school of these three places is he indebted for his *schooling*, but not for his *education*. Like many of our self-made men, Mr. Hendershot's student life has comprised the spare moments of a life-time. At the early age of fourteen he went to live with an uncle, a merchant and thorough business man, and was with him an entire decade. In 1856 he came west and, after prospecting through northern Illinois, located at Paw Paw, as clerk for Cone & Madden. Here he remained in the employ of the two succeeding owners, D. W. Madden and Hiram Fuller, till the winter of 1857-8, when he went east and closed out a stock of goods for Robt. McCoy. Returning, he began business as a grocer on the north side of Main street, in Paw Paw, in the fall of 1858. In the fall of 1860 he purchased his house and lot, corner of Main and Peru streets, and was married to Jane M. Carey, of Whitehall, Pennsylvania. In 1873 he erected the first brick store in the place, and in it he is still carrying on business. In 1880 he tore down his old brick house, and on the same spot erected a fine, spacious brick residence. Mr. Hendershot has ever given close personal attention to business, and to this end has declined official honors and responsibilities. His sympathies have always been with the democratic party, except that in county and town offices he aims to vote for the best men, regardless of party. He is a Mason, and was the secretary of Corinthian Lodge, No. 205, A.F. and A.M., five successive years, and junior warden three years. Mr. and Mrs. Hendershot have one daughter.

SAMUEL BUNKER, farmer and stock raiser, Paw Paw Grove, was a native of Maine, born in Penobscot, February 10, 1820, son of Stephen and Lucy (Page) Bunker. Till twenty-two his work was farming, carpentering and lumbering, with a moderate allowance of schooling. He came first to Lamoille, in Bureau county, Illinois, but remained there only about two years, meanwhile purchasing from O. W. Bryant a claim in Lee county on the north side of Four-Mile Grove. In the fall of 1844 he went to Baton Rouge, Louisiana, where, during a stay of three or four months, he underwent three fevers, and was compelled to borrow money to defray the expenses of his homeward passage. After some ten years at the carpenter and joiner trade, in the counties of

Bureau and La Salle, he left these parts for the pineries of Wisconsin. Being a "down-easter," he was an unusually valuable man to handle a team in the timber. On one occasion ten men with five yoke of oxen tried in vain to haul out a heavy balance-beam. Bunker took the same team and only one man, and in two hours accomplished the task. He was there some three years. It was about 1858 that he came to his land in Lee county, where he still resides. The farm comprises 168 acres just at the edge of the grove; two overflowing perennial springs render it a valuable stock farm. On December 27, 1861, he was married to Cordelia N. Bryant, sister of Hon. O. W. Bryant. They have three children: Sarah A., born August 5, 1862; William E., July 24, 1866, and Lillie A., April 2, 1870. He is a republican, and never known to be "on the fence." He and his wife are members of the Free Baptist church at Four-Mile Grove.

JOHN M. JACOBY, farmer and stock raiser, Paw Paw Grove, born at Franklin county, Pennsylvania, June 27, 1822, was the son of John and Mary (Mace) Jacoby. In his thirteenth year he was bereft of a kind and tender mother. At twenty-one he went to the carpenter's trade, and in winter evenings also taught music, thus following both till after his marriage, March 6, 1848, to Miss Cynthia J., daughter of Francis T. Neir, of Shippensburg, Cumberland county, Pennsylvania. In 1851 they moved to Peoria, Illinois; was there a year, at Peru the next year, and at Princeton two years, then moved to their present farm at the northeast corner of Four-Mile Grove. Here, by hard labor well applied, Mr. Jacoby has made a good farm. It contains 250 acres, and is well adapted for stock raising. The buildings are first-class, and the indications of well-directed husbandry appear on every hand. They have three children: John Edgar, a farmer on the Mendota road; Francis S. and May Bell, both at home. For twenty years he has been a member of the Wyoming Presbyterian church at Cottage Hill. He is a democrat and a union man most emphatically.

HENRY LEWIS, liveryman, Paw Paw, was born in Franklin county, Pennsylvania, April 17, 1828. His father, Henry, was a carpenter by trade, but in quite limited circumstances, so that the subject of our sketch had little or no schooling. Indeed, at twenty-one he was hardly able to write his own name. Since then, however, he has learned to read quite well, and is said to be well versed in the scriptures. In 1850 he was married to Jane Taylor. In 1851 they moved to Seneca county, Ohio, and next year to Miami county, where he farmed till 1856, when they emigrated to Illinois. In the spring of 1857 he bought a farm of eighty acres near Twin Groves; this he still owns. His wife died in 1874. His second wife was Elizabeth Fisk, of Malugin's Grove. In 1878 he bought out Charles Pulver, since which time



he has been in the livery business at Paw Paw, doing a good business. Since his second marriage three children have blessed their home: Raymond, William Henry, and Caroline.

GEORGE W. LINDSEY, Paw Paw Grove, a practical butcher of remarkable experience, with an established reputation for all departments of his business. Born at Attica, Wyoming county, New York, April 12, 1843, the eldest son of George W. and Rhoda (Hamlin) Lindsey, our subject started for himself in the meat and stock business at the age of twenty, in Walworth county, Wisconsin. He was married September 24, 1863, to Elizabeth M. Phillips. In 1865 he changed the base of his operations to Whitehall, Michigan, thence in 1867 to the plains of Texas, where, in the cattle trade, he failed and lost everything, save his indomitable, restless spirit. On Christmas-day, 1869, he came to Paw Paw, and the next spring again engaged in the butcher business. Two years later he built the first market ever put up in this village. After a stay of about four years at Paw Paw he went to Chicago into the live stock commission business, and opened two markets, one at the corner of Thirty-first street and Indiana avenue, the other at Forty-third and Halsted streets. Of this experience he says, "Too many irons in the fire lost." Not discouraged, on March 15, 1876, he started for the Black Hills, arriving May 4, and leaving there September 20 for Paw Paw, bringing with him *eighteen pounds avoirdupois weight of native gold*. He immediately built his dwelling-house on maple street, and erected a brick building on Main street opposite the Detamore House, for a market. Selling the latter to B. J. Wheeler, away he goes to the San Juan valley, secures a joint interest with Lester Potter, of Paw Paw, in three different mines; returns, buys the market he now occupies, and opens again in his regular business. One year later the western fever attacks him again, and away to Idaho and Montana, whence, after a six-weeks' stay, he returns again from this his latest and *tenth* trip across the plains. He says "to Alaska will be his next journey." Mr. Lindsey has surely heeded the advice of Horace Greeley — "Go West"; but contrary to Poor Richard's saying about the rolling stone gathering no moss, his business is simply immense. Mr. Lindsey was married September 24, 1863, to Elizabeth M. Phillips. Their two children are Edwin Gallaway and Nellie Gertrude. He is a Mason and a democrat.

WILLIAM M. GEDDES, editor and proprietor of the Paw Paw "Herald," inherits both linguistic taste and mechanical genius from his father, Robert Geddes, of Amboy, a man proficient in the use of six languages, and for twenty years master mechanic in the employ of the Illinois Central Railroad Company. With such a parentage, we are not surprised to find the subject of our sketch at the printer's case at



fourteen, and in the editorial chair at twenty-one. William was the fourth child in a family of seven children, all of whom and both parents are still living. Zanesville, Ohio, was his birthplace and August 21, 1856, his birthday. But that same year the family moved to Amboy, Illinois. At eleven William entered the high school, and at fourteen the office of the Amboy "Journal." So small of stature was he that he had to stand on a box a foot and a half high to reach the case, yet in two months' time he was able to take the case of a regular journeyman printer, and in six months, instead of getting boys' pay, he received good printers' wages. He was in this office some four years, while it was owned successively by Corbus & Stimpson, William Parker, and William H. Haskell. Close application beginning to tell on his health, he clerked a few months for W. B. Andrus & Son. Back again at the "Journal" office, he was about this time laying his plans for his business career, and we are not surprised that he determined to invest first in education. As a student he was an indefatigable worker. After drinking from the Pierian spring as deeply as his means would allow, he came to Paw Paw in February 1878, and purchased the "Herald" office from its founder, R. H. Ruggles. April 14, 1880, he married Jennie M. Parker, daughter of his former employer, William Parker. That Mr. Geddes found a helpmeet indeed, may be inferred from the fact that her ancestry on both sides for generations back were printers. Her father is well known as a veteran in the editorial corps, and she herself is not unacquainted with the art of successfully using the pen and the scissors. For three years she was a teacher in the Mendota High School. When Mr. Geddes assumed the management of the office at Paw Paw, the "Herald" was in its infancy and with less than one hundred subscribers, but the books now show 900 subscribers, and the prospect is good for 1000 at the beginning of the year 1882.

JAMES W. MAYOR, harness-maker and dealer, Paw Paw Grove, born at Dayton, Ohio, May 1, 1850, is the only son of William and Sarah (Seville) Mayor. In the spring of 1855 his parents brought him to Paw Paw, Illinois, where all the surviving members of the family still reside. His father, sensible of his own lack of early advantages, was anxious his son should have a good, substantial education, and kept him at the Paw Paw school till he was fifteen. But James developed a mechanical turn of mind, so at fifteen he began learning harness-making, continuing his studies at school in the winter seasons. In this way he is said to have made very commendable progress. In the fall of 1869 he bought out the business, and has since carried it on in his own name. He is doing a good business for a place of this size, receiving orders from those who know his work, as far away as Iowa,

Nebraska, and California. October 17, 1870, he was married to Juliett Madison, youngest daughter of James and Mary Madison, of Paw Paw, Illinois. They have had four children: Jessie Viola (deceased), Harry Edgar, Elmer A. and Genevieve. He is an Odd-Fellow, has passed through all the offices in Anchor Lodge, is now its representative to the Grand Lodge, and is also chief patriarch in Paw Paw Encampment. Politics, republican, in faith and practice.

WILSON C. BRYANT, eldest son of Hon. Obed W. and Lucy (Lindsey) Bryant, was born at Four-Mile Grove, in La Salle county, November 26, 1843. Was there about ten years, till his parents moved just across the line into Lee county, to a farm at the northeast corner of the same grove. He attended school in the home district, at Lee Center, at Mendota, and in the winter of 1864-5 at Wasioja, Minnesota. He also taught several terms. In 1869 he purchased the Burrill farm on Cottage Hill, in Wyoming township. On March 12, 1872, he was married to Terressa A. Blee. Wilson C. Bryant and his excellent wife are very nicely fixed on a beautiful farm on Cottage Hill, amid groves and hedges, and with a pleasing prospect around and before them. Wilson C. Bryant is the eldest son of Hon. Obed W. Bryant. His mother was Lucy Lindsey. He was born November 26, 1843, at Four-Mile Grove, near the county line, but in La Salle county. He was there about ten years, till his parents moved across the line into Lee county to a farm at the northeast corner of the same grove. His school advantages were quite good. He attended more or less at Lee Center, Mendota, and Wasioja, Minnesota. He also taught a few terms. Finally, in 1869, he purchased his present farm, known as the Burrill farm, and on March 12, 1872, was married to Terressa A. Blee, also of Cottage Hill. Joseph M. Blee, her father, is reputed to have been one of the best men ever in Wyoming. His death, on January 16, 1873, was caused by injuries received but a few hours before by being thrown from a wagon. He came to Cottage Hill in 1855; was a native of Pennsylvania.

PIERCE & BARRINGER, druggists, are the gentlemanly proprietors of the Palace drug-store. The firm is composed of Philip S. Pierce and William H. Barringer. Mr. Pierce is an enterprising farmer and stock raiser. He was born in East Paw Paw, De Kalb county, October 8, 1847, and is the son of Charles, who settled near Paw Paw Grove in 1845. On February 20, 1869, Mr. Pierce was married to Miss Addie E. Barringer, daughter of John Barringer. He remained on his father's place until November 1874, when he came to the Nettleton farm, which he now owns. This is situated in Sec. 35, Willow Creek township, and comprises 145 acres of choice land, well improved. One of the principal improvements is the substantial barn, 30×50, with

22-foot posts, erected the present season. Mr. and Mrs. Pierce have three children: William Evert, Mary A. and Philip U. The junior partner, William H. Barringer, is one of the young business men of whom Paw Paw is justly proud. He was born at Ross' Grove, De Kalb county, September 30, 1850, and the eldest of three children of John H. and Delia (Mulford) Barringer. Both of his parents died in the year 1854, when William was but four years old. His grandmother Barringer took the three little orphans to her home in Paw Paw and brought them up. William was with her twelve years at this place, then eight years with her at East Paw Paw. During these years he had made good use of his time both at school and on the farm in vacations. In 1874 they moved to a farm near Smith's Grove, and the following year he spent in Kansas. In the spring of 1881 he united in partnership with Mr. Pierce, as successors to the firm of Palmer & Stetler, in the drug business, the duties of which mainly devolve on Mr. Barringer.

ELIJAH SWARTHOUT, farmer, Paw Paw Grove, was born August 16, 1820, in Luzerne county, Pennsylvania, and son of Joshua and Elizabeth (Van Loon) Swarthout. The name Van Loon traces back to original settlers on the Hudson. His grandparents on his father's side were from Holland. Elijah was the oldest of a family of eleven children, and brought up on a farm of 200 acres, he naturally became inured to those habits essential to a good farmer. He was also counted good as a scholar for the time and place. He remained on the old homestead till he was twenty-eight. December 25, 1848, he was married to Sarah E. Brown, daughter of Solomon Brown, of the same place. In the spring of 1856 they emigrated to Illinois, and purchased ninety acres of the old Russell Town farm west of Paw Paw. This he sold in 1861, when he bought eighty acres in Sec. 6, and in 1870 another farm just west of the village, and in 1877 added to his real-estate acquisitions the fine property on Grummond street, where he now resides. He was in company with his son-in-law, James H. Thompson, five years, ending July 15, 1881. He was Methodistically inclined, in politics a democrat, and was a charter member of the Wyoming Grange. In 1880 a promising son, Frank M., died of consumption at the age of twenty-two. He has four children living: Catharine J., Mrs. James H. Thompson; Clarrissa, Mrs. B. J. Wheeler; Rasselas, and Solomon Brown. His estimable wife died September 11, 1881, after a lingering illness of nearly a year.

W. C. RUNYAN, clerk, Paw Paw Grove, son of Joshua and Elizabeth (Swisher) Runyan, was born in Columbia county, Pennsylvania, April 15, 1829, and with them moved to Lycoming county in 1833. In the spring of 1850 he, with his parents, moved to Northumberland



county, where his father died in the fall of 1853. In October, 1854, he was married to Clara McKnight, of Montour county, and the following spring they moved to Lee county. Here he rented land from time to time in different parts of the county. His wife died January 19, 1859. In the spring of 1860, at Meriden, Illinois, he was married to Mrs. Martha Litts, daughter of Abraham Rosenkrans, of Wyoming township. In the spring of 1863 he bought a farm near Franklin Grove, but sold it in the spring of 1866, and bought in Wyoming two miles south of Paw Paw. His health failing in 1871, he was compelled to desist from all labor. In April, 1873, he engaged in the mercantile business at Paw Paw, continuing till December 1879. In January, 1881, he commenced clerking for L. Potter & Co. From the age of eighteen Mr. Runyan was a member of the Baptist church. For the past five years he has held a prominent position in the Lee county Sabbath-school work. He has two daughters, Elizabeth C. and Lydia.

WILLIAM MERRELL, senior partner in the firm of Merrell & Co., Paw Paw Grove, was born November 29, 1829, in Canton, Hartford county, Connecticut. His parents were Capt. Alanson and Lucy L. (Mills) Merrell, and his grandfather was a revolutionary soldier. After the usual schooling, supplemented by a term at East Hampton, Massachusetts, he was married, November 28, 1848, to Louisa A. Daniels, of Canton, and in 1851 moved to Steuben county, New York, where he followed farming and lumbering. Volunteering in 1862, he was mustered in as 1st lieutenant of Co. D, 141st reg. New York Inf.; was promoted to the captaincy in July 1863; to the office of major in 1864; was acting-colonel under Sherman on the march to the sea, the campaign of the Carolinas, and the final march to Washington, where he was mustered out. He was in about fifteen general engagements and skirmishes, including Lookout Mountain, Mission Ridge, Resaca, New Hope Church,—a hard battle at arms' length,—and Kennesaw Mountain. For one hundred days was either in engagements or under fire on the skirmish line. Of the entire regiment, when it came out of the noted battle of Peach Tree creek, there remained to report for duty only Capt. Merrell, a Capt. Baldwin and one lieutenant, of all the field and line officers, and but sixty-one privates. Moving west in 1866, he farmed four years in Lake county and five years near East Paw Paw, when, in 1875, entered into copartnership with John Edwards and Henry Goodyear under the firm name Wm. Merrell & Co., and engaged in general merchandising at West Paw Paw. The next year this firm erected the Centennial block. In 1878 Mr. Merrell sold his interest to Goodyear and moved to Kansas; returned the following year and renewed possession of the farm he had previously sold; in the fall of 1880 united in copartnership with P. N. Edwards and Will-



iam Siglin, under the firm name William Merrell & Co. Mr. and Mrs. Merrell have three children: Henry William, Viola Louise, and Frank Warren. The entire family united with the Methodist Episcopal church in 1866. Frank is now taking a college and theological course at Evanston, Illinois. Like most soldiers, Mr. Merrell is republican.

HENRY H. HARRINGTON, justice of the peace of the town of Wyoming, and dealer in groceries, crockery, china and glassware, Paw Paw Grove, youngest son of Amasa and Annie (Arnold) Harrington, was born at Ogdensburg, St. Lawrence county, New York, February 9, 1841, and with the family moved to Paw Paw in fall of 1843. Till fourteen he was subject to a lung difficulty that confined him at home, hence his primary education was received from his mother. But this was necessarily quite limited, so much so that at the age of sixteen, on entering the intermediate department of Prof. Perrin's school at Paw Paw, he for the first time studied arithmetic, geography, and grammar. His progress was rapid, however, for at the end of two years he was appointed as teacher in the department which he had first entered, at the same time continuing his studies in the high school department. Meanwhile his health had rapidly improved till at the date alluded to he was strong and rugged. He taught school in Lee and Ogle counties most of the time till 1865, then went to Chicago and graduated at Eastman's Commercial College. He followed teaching and writing in law and in abstract offices in Ogle county till the fall of 1869, when he went to Ohio and was married to Amelia R. Hosmer, of Parkman, Geauga county, New York, daughter of Sylvester B. and Mary (Foster) Hosmer (deceased). Here he remained six years on his wife's farm. In 1875 he moved to Paw Paw and purchased the store and dwelling-house combined, which he has since occupied. He joined the Methodist Episcopal church in the winter of 1876, under the pastorate of Rev. J. Hartman, since which time he has been a consistent member and church-laborer, holding the office of recording steward and secretary of the board of trustees. He was elected justice of the peace in 1877 and reelected in 1881. He is a republican and a Mason, and a strong advocate of temperance. The three children are Mary Maud Anna, Madge Amelia, and Hosmer Hartman.

T. H. SIETLER, physician and surgeon, Paw Paw Grove, son of John Stetler, was born at Wilkesbarre, Luzerne county, Pennsylvania, August 6, 1847. The district school, high school and academy each in turn contributed to his literary education till the fall of 1867, when he came west to Malugin's Grove, Illinois. Taught school that winter at Adrian's school-house, the next winter at the Edmonds school-house, and the next three years at the Grove. He now

began the study of materia medica and chemistry with view to fitting for the medical profession, and in the fall of 1872, in company with Dr. Palmer, engaged in the drug business. He sold out in the spring of 1874, and in the fall began taking lectures at the Chicago Medical College; graduating there March 21, 1876, he settled down in the practice of medicine at Paw Paw. That one so young should think to compete for a share of the practice in a place where inefficiency and quackery would never be tolerated, and with physicians of age, experience and established reputation, is evidence of his confidence in the genuineness of his qualifications, and his practice, already quite extensive, shows that the people are partakers of that confidence. December 31, 1870, he was married to his estimable wife, Libbie Rosencrans, youngest daughter of Abram and Elizabeth Rosencrans, who has contributed largely to his success in life. Dr. Stetler was raised a Mason in Brooklyn Lodge in 1870, and became a member of Corinthian Lodge, No. 205, in 1873. He is now secretary of this lodge. In 1873 he was made a Royal Arch Mason in Rochelle Chapter. The doctor is a communicant in the Presbyterian church of Paw Paw, and superintendent of the Sabbath-school. He is a man of decidedly republican views, and an earnest worker in the party.

GEORGE T. NOE, farmer, Steward, son of Cummings Noe, was born on the farm at present owned by B. F. Ellsworth, formerly the early homestead of his parents, May 21, 1855. He attended the district schools of the neighborhood, and finished his studies in the Western College in Lynn county, Iowa. On March 5, 1878, he was married to Mrs. Caroline Yetter, daughter of Gotlieb Hochstrasser. These parents have two children: Eda Levilla and Mary Martha. Mrs. Noe is a member of the Evangelical church, and Mr. Noe belongs to the United Brethren, and is a republican.

B. J. WHEELER, proprietor of Oak Grove Creamery and Cheese Factory, Paw Paw Grove, was born near Bangor, Maine, May 14, 1837. His parents, Jacob and Martha (Drake) Wheeler, had their home three miles from the nearest school-house, and bears being numerous in that region young Wheeler was prevented from receiving early instruction in the schools. About 1845 the family came west and settled at Nauvoo, in this state, and a few years later removed to Paw Paw Grove, where the subject of this notice attended the South Side High School one year. His father in 1851 purchased from John Pelcher 100 acres of land, the same on which his creamery is now situated. This finally passed from his father's ownership, and several times changed hands until it was at last bought by Mr. Wheeler. In 1856 our subject went to Minnesota, and was engaged three years in farming, peddling, and other pursuits. In 1859, having returned to

Illinois, he set out immediately for California, and engaged in mining in Plumas county. After three years' steady employment at this business he went to freighting supplies from Marysville to Humboldt valley, a distance of 300 miles, forty being across a desert. Prices charged for everything seem incredible. Potatoes sold at the mines for \$15 per bushel, and Mr. Wheeler received \$8.40 for the hauling. For hay to feed his team over night he paid at one time \$90. The transporting of one load brought him \$1,800. Once just before reaching the end of his route an axle broke and he had to go forward to get it repaired. This occupied half an hour and cost \$20. When he returned he got three Indians to help him change his load, in which were fifteen pounds of fish-hooks, and \$1,800 of county scrip in a small yeast can. After resuming his way he missed his hooks and scrip, and returning to the river where about 100 Indians were encamped, was not able to persuade them to give up the plunder. He subsequently obtained a re-issue of the scrip. He remained in California four years, and on his return purchased the farm on which he is now living. Here he engaged in farming, trading, shipping stock, and making brick. On January 1, 1873, he was married to Clara Swarthout, daughter of Elijah and Elizabeth Swarthout, of Paw Paw. In 1874 he bought the grist-mill at the grove, and in 1877 traded it to Frank Niekey for the store now owned by George Lindsey, and the stock of hardware which it contained. The latter he sold to H. M. Wilson in July, 1879, and the same year took a trip with his family through Idaho, Utah and California, consuming four months in this journey. A drive of 300 miles behind a mule team was included in their experiences. If it was tedious it did not wholly fail of being ludicrous. Mrs. Wheeler says the mules were exasperatingly slow, unless the driver was drunk. She was the only lady passenger among fourteen men. The bottle of exhilarating fluid never went dry, and her thoughtful fellow-travelers proffered it with religious constancy whenever it went around. Mr. Wheeler erected the Oak Grove Creamery and Cheese Factory in 1880. This represents an industry of prime importance in Wyoming township, and by his enterprise he has added not a little to the material prosperity and consideration of the community. He is a republican and an Odd-Fellow. Mr. and Mrs. Wheeler have had three children: Addie Kyle, Frank, and one "over the river."

A. G. FOWLER, farmer, Paw Paw Grove, eldest son of Noah and Polly (Whitaker) Fowler, was born at Cambridge, New York, March 3, 1826. The most of his schooling was obtained in the three last winters of his minority, and he made so good use of his meager privileges, and such progress in his studies, that he qualified himself to be a teacher and was employed in that capacity three years. In 1851 he



spent six months in the State of Virginia. In the summer of 1853 he came to Illinois and settled at West Aurora, and had his home in that vicinity six years. Being a man of large ingenuity, to whom the use of tools is a natural gift, he worked successively in the sash factory, reaper shop, and as a carpenter on the depot and other buildings of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railroad. This road was constructed to Mendota the year of his arrival. While living here he was married, February 19, 1856, to Nancy B. Deuel, of his native town of Cambridge. From Aurora Mr. Fowler moved to Waterman, De Kalb county, where he lived six years farming and holding office. He was constable four years and collector two terms. In the spring of 1865 he came to South Paw Paw, and the next year occupied his present farm. He has 40 acres whose productiveness is recognized as considerably above the average. Deacon Fowler is a leading fruit-grower in this part of the country. He is a consistent and prominent member of the Baptist church of Paw Paw, and has filled the office of deacon nearly a dozen years. Politically he was first a "silver gray" whig, whatever that may have been, and is now a supporter of republican principles. Mr. and Mrs. Fowler have three children, Mary, Isaac L., and Lois, all at home.

JESSE BRITAIN, deceased, was a man of a limited education, economical in his habits and possessed of a marked degree of energy. His untiring industry and good management resulted in a competence for himself and a considerable estate for his heirs. He was born August 8, 1808, in Lycoming county, Pennsylvania. In early manhood he was employed mainly in lumbering. In 1829 he was married to Miss Margaret Lemons, of Muncie, in the same state. In 1840 he moved to Beaver, on the Ohio below Pittsburgh, returning in 1843. He built himself a saw-mill and followed lumbering till the summer of 1850, when he came west and settled at Cottage Hill, in Wyoming township. Here he resided till his death, in 1875. His widow, after a happy companionship of nearly fifty years, is with his son, John T., on the old homestead. The following were the children: Charles W., John T., Lavina, Sarah (deceased), George (killed at the battle of Perrysville, October 8, 1862), and Zebreth, now farming at Raceburg, on the Solomon river, in Kansas. The eldest son, Charles, was always fond of travel, and gratified this taste in a large measure. He joined Col. Aspinwall's company, which built the Panama railroad, and from the isthmus went to San Francisco in 1851. He worked in the diggings until the discovery of gold in Australia, in 1854, when he repaired to that distant land, and during his travels visited Van Dieman's land and most of the islands in the Pacific ocean. He returned to California and went to work again in the mines. When Montana began



to excite notice he was attracted there by the supposed inducements of that fresh field of discovery, and when last heard from was on his way to Alaska. John, too, seems to have had a love of change and incident, but this partook quite largely of the business character. At the age of twenty-one he left New York, April 5, 1854, for California via Aspinwall and Panama and landed in San Francisco May 1; followed mining and prospecting for mines for twelve years, mostly in the counties of Mariposa, Stanislaus, Tuolumne and Klamath. He took part in several of the mining excitements, particularly the Silver Mountain and Frazer river mines in British Columbia in the year 1858. He resided a short time at Victoria, on Van Couver's island, located at Humboldt bay in California, and followed ranching from 1866 to 1870, when he returned by rail. In his individual enterprises he was usually successful, but he lost heavily at times by stock company investments. He now resides on the homestead at Cottage Hill, and owns a 160-acre farm in Viola.

CHARLES PIERCE, farmer and stock raiser, Paw Paw Grove, was born in Pennsylvania, February 3, 1813, followed the business of moulder in a foundry some years at Kingston, Pennsylvania, came west to Paw Paw township, arriving September 17, 1845, and moved to Wyoming November 15, 1856. He has erected several buildings, and is now the owner of several farms. He resides on the "Bogus" Gates place, but a few rods from the site of the old pioneer cabin of David A. Town, built in 1834. He has been twice married: his first wife was a Goodwin; by her he had three children: Thomas J., born August 16, 1836; John, born September 15, 1838, and George S., born January 22, 1841. On February 10, 1842, he was married to Catharine Sine; they have six children: Everett, born March 28, 1843, Emma S., May 17, 1845, Philip S., October 8, 1847, Mary A., November 11, 1850, Florence, December 29, 1852, Maria O., June 16, 1855. Philip owns a good farm in Willow Creek township, and is partner in the firm of Pierce & Barringer, at Paw Paw.

JAMES H. THOMPSON, dealer in general merchandise, Paw Paw, is the son of William and Nancy (Harding) Thompson, and was born in Luzerne county, Pennsylvania, April 8, 1843. His father died when James was but four years old. When eight years of age he came with his mother to Paw Paw, and was educated in the graded school of the three Paw Paws. In 1855 his mother married John Colvill, with whom James has remained to this date, except when in the service of his country. He enlisted in 1862, in Co. K, 75th reg. Ill. Vols., under Capt. Geo. Ryan, and during his three years' service was never out of the rebel confederacy. He was in action at Perryville, Stone River, Chickamauga, and Lookout Mountain, and while on a reconnoissance at



*Geo. M. Berkley*



Tunnel Hill, February 25, 1864, a singular accident befell him. At the top of Rocky Face Ridge, a tree a foot through was shot off at the height of forty feet and fell with terrible force upon him, crushing his musket in three pieces and almost fatally wounding him. Fortunately he recovered and was with his regiment on the Atlanta campaign. Being a clerkly penman he was detailed to a clerical position in the inspector-general's office. A testimonial from Capt. Nelson G. Franklin, acting assistant inspector general, speaks in unequivocal terms of Mr. Thompson. It is dated at Nashville, June 12, 1865, and says, "He has performed his duties in my office satisfactorily, and though complicated and arduous as the work has been, he has gained for himself an excellent name as a business man, and won the unbounded respect of all with whom he has had official relations." On his return from the army he farmed awhile, and in 1869 united in copartnership with Mr. Colvill. In 1875 they sold out to William Merrell & Co., and Mr. Thompson moved onto his farm, which he had purchased two years before from Isaac Harding. In the fall he took charge of the clothing store here owned by Metz & Jackson, of Amboy, and in the spring of 1876 engaged in business for himself in the Colvill building. He is one of the school trustees of the town of Wyoming, has served as collector, has been at the head of most of the republican movements, and at the present time is a member of the Lee county central committee. He has been repeatedly solicited to accept a nomination for county office, but his business preventing he has constantly declined. He is a member of Anchor Lodge, I.O.O.F. On March 28, 1867, he was married to Miss Catharine J. Swarthout, eldest daughter of Elijah J. Swarthout, of Paw Paw.

JOHN ALLEN, mechanic, Paw Paw Grove, was born in Hartford, Maine, July 13, 1813. His grandfather, Thomas Allen, deserted the British army on the northern frontier in the time of the revolution, and had several dangerous escapes from capture, while under pursuit, by the red-coats. At one time his pursuers passed the house in which he was concealed, and at another crossed over the bridge beneath which he was hiding. Making his way to Machias, Maine, he took up his residence there, and was one of the first six residents in the place. He was chosen town clerk and singing teacher, and in course of time was called to other posts of influence and respectability. He reared a son, John Allen, who became the father of eight children. From the notes at command the writer is unable to mention more than three of these, John, Thomas and Benjamin, the first the subject of this sketch. The last two were for a long time in the service of presidents John Adams and John Quincy Adams, Thomas being employed by the two seven years. Among a number of presents bestowed upon



these men by the elder Adams was a trunk which he had carried with him to Europe when abroad as a representative of the United States. This was a sacred souvenir of him whose lips of burning patriotism whispered at the portal of death the glorious words, "Independence forever." John Allen lived in Maine until he was eighteen; he then went to Boston, and soon after embarked on the ocean and was engaged in sea-faring nearly eight years. After this he worked a year or two in a last factory in Boston, and in 1840 emigrated to Ohio and hired out to a Mr. Gunn, a man of Scotch lineage, to work on his farm. On July 25 he was married to his employer's daughter, Sophia Gunn. Three years afterward Mr. Allen returned to Boston with his family and went to work again in the last factory, where he continued to be employed ten years. In 1855 he moved west, settled in Willow Creek township, and farmed four years. He next brought his family to Paw Paw, where they have resided up to the present time. For awhile he was engaged in carpentering; then in 1860 he joined the rush to Pike's Peak, but soon returned without improving his fortune. In 1862, being forty-eight years of age and legally exempt from military duty, he nevertheless heard the call of father Abraham for three hundred thousand more, and not able to shut his heart to the appeal of his country in the crisis of her peril he enlisted in Capt. Cogswell's Independent Illinois Battery of Light Artillery, and was attached to the war-worn 15th Army Corps. The service bore heavily upon him, and it was not long till he was obliged to come home to recruit his health. When he repaired again to the army he took with him his son Horace, who was mustered into the United States service at Springfield, in 1864. Taken suddenly ill once more, our subject was sent home to receive that care and nursing so sadly wanting in the army, and while there his son, only seventeen, was killed by the explosion of a caisson. His remains are interred at Huntsville, Alabama. Mr. Allen returned to his command, and served the remainder of his term of three years. During most of the time he was serving on detail as artificer. Having returned to civil pursuits, he nearly lost his life by falling thirty feet from a barn he was building to the ground. In 1870 Mr. and Mrs. Allen made public profession of religion, and are now members of the Methodist Episcopal church. They have five living children, three of whom have also arrived at a saving knowledge of divine truth. T. T. Allen is in Kansas, Charles H. and Eugene are at Paw Paw, Weltha is married and living at Plano, and Eugenia is at home with her mother. Mr. Allen has twice been collector of Wyoming township. In 1877 he went into the manufacture of the Excelsior spring-bed bottom, and was agent for

the sale of it in Illinois. He has made one trip to California and four to Kansas, where he now is improving a permanent home.

MRS. SUSAN P. DETAMORE, proprietor of the Detamore House, Paw Paw, was a native of Pownal, Bennington county, Vermont, and the youngest child of Jedediah and Tameson Foster. Her parents came to Paw Paw Grove in 1847, but on the way out here she stopped at Eaton, Ohio, and was there through all the fearful scourge of the cholera two years later. Just as this was abating, in September, she was married to David Detamore, whose father and mother, Jacob and Sophia Detamore, and brothers and sisters had all been carried off by this terrible disease. While living here the only child they ever had, Mary E. Detamore, now the wife of Dr. Thomas D. Palmer, was born, and when they emigrated to Paw Paw, in 1851, she was six months old. On their arrival Mr. Detamore bought the property where the Detamore House has always stood, and as there was a growing demand for hotel accommodations, they at once opened their doors to entertain the public. In a short time their business had so increased that they were compelled to enlarge their house. In 1856 Mr. Detamore sold the property and gave a bond for a deed. A long and expensive contest in the courts ensued, in the midst of which, in 1859, Mr. Detamore sickened and died. The heavy costs of this suit were paid by Mrs. Detamore from keeping boarders in a little private house. Being declared the rightful owner of the property, she returned to it in the spring of 1861. Since then, with the exception of about a year that she was east to give her daughter the benefits of school, she has remained here continually, and has succeeded in securing a competency, and that which she prizes as still more valuable, the respect and good-will of her large circle of acquaintances. Mention was made to the writer by numerous citizens of the lively interest this lady had ever taken in the welfare of the place, how she had sold lots at low rates, improved buildings, and contributed generally to its growth and prosperity.

WILLIAM M. SPROUL, farmer, stock raiser and dairyman, Paw Paw Grove, was born in Columbia county, Pennsylvania, August 26, 1821, and was the son of James C. and Euphemia (Marshall) Sproul. His father was from Ireland, and a saddler by trade, followed mercantile pursuits, and was prominent in business. His grandfather Marshall served as a soldier in the revolution, and his mother was of Scotch-Irish descent. William had fair educational advantages, and taught school some four winter terms. On November 18, 1844, he was married to Sarah A. McHard, and immediately settled down to farming on his father's place. Two children were the fruits of this union; one died in 1847, the mother followed to the grave the next year, and the other child was buried in 1854. Mr. Sproul took a second wife in the

person of Miss Charlotte J. Wilson, and the marriage rite was celebrated June 6, 1849. She was the daughter of Richard and Mary (Durham) Wilson. Her grandmother, Margaret Durham, was the wife of James Durham. Long years ago, when the great west, where we now live, was the hunting ground of the savages, and the middle states, some yet unsettled, were on the border, the Indians made an irruption into Pennsylvania. The Durhams were living at the forks of the Susquehanna when the settlement was invaded. As soon as the news of danger reached the people they hurried off to the fort, the women being sent in advance, and Mrs. Durham with a babe in her arms, while the men delayed a little to look after matters. The latter, when moving toward the same place, were attracted by the frantic demonstrations of the house-dog, and on going to the spot indicated by his intelligent manner they found Mrs. Durham lying in a shocking condition, scalped and tomahawked, apparently beyond all possible hope of recovery, though lingering signs of life might still be discovered. At length, to their surprise she called for water; this was brought in a hat, and from this moment she clung to the last chance for life with such restoring tenacity that her recovery was finally accomplished. To add to her grief, her husband was taken prisoner by the Indians. A silver plate mended her fractured skull, and she lived to become the mother of six children. Mrs. Sproul well remembers her brave grandmother. About 1850 Mr. Sproul bought a farm in Pennsylvania; in the spring of 1857 he sold it and emigrated to Illinois, settling in Wyoming township, where he purchased 240 acres in Sec. 27. A tract of eighty acres was partially improved, the remainder was wild land. The house then on the place has a history. It was built entirely of hard wood, spiked together in the most substantial manner, and after being several times moved to different localities has probably found a permanent stopping-place in Paw Paw, where it is owned and occupied for a residence by John Briggs, being evidently improved by its itinerancy. Mr. Sproul has a neatly improved and well stocked homestead, fenced with growing hedges, which contains thrifty orchards and good buildings. He is a first-class butter maker, and the products of his dairy bring the highest prices in Baltimore, Philadelphia, St. Louis, and New Orleans. He received the first premium at the Missouri state fair, held in St. Louis in 1878. He gives most careful personal attention to this business and his abundant success is but the natural result of his industry and good judgment. By his last marriage Mr. Sproul has three children: Mary Jane, wife of W. L. Shumaker, Euphemia E., and Sarah Margaret, now Mrs. John R. Crandall, living in Clay county, Kansas. Mr. Sproul is a democrat, and his whole family belong to the Presbyterian church.

WILLIAM MOFFATT AND BROTHER, farmers, importers and breeders of stock, Paw Paw, were the sons of Joseph Moffatt, who was lost on the steamship Canadian in the straits of Belle Isle, June 4, 1861. The steamer struck an iceberg and went down in forty-five minutes. William was born in Ontario county, Canada, August 24, 1837, and the mother died when he was five years old. There were three children younger than he; Robert and Mary Jane were twins, and the latter died suddenly at the age of seventeen. After the death of the mother the family remained together and labored in unity, and in this way could help one another, making all more prosperous. The father was a thrifty, energetic man, and left a farm for each of his children. They all received a good education in the excellent common schools of their native place. These brothers have been in company since their arrival in the States, in March 1871, and have made a specialty of breeding thoroughbred stock. They resided three years in Cuyahoga county, Ohio, and in March, 1874, moved to this township, where they purchased 430 acres of land. Their farm contains a number of commodious buildings adapted to their business. We noticed a barn 100 feet long, one building 40×60, and another 36×44. The latter is enlarged by shed-roof additions. The Moffatt brothers keep an average of thirty-five horses, seventy-five head of cattle, and a choice herd of Berkshire swine. They have imported eight horses the present season. "Johnny Ladd," four years old, imported in 1880, weighs nineteen hundred pounds and is valued at \$3,000. In 1878 they competed at Freeport against fourteen herds and received the highest premium. Calves have been sold from their herd for \$300 apiece, and their sales of horses in the last year have amounted to more than \$12,000. Robert was married October 23, 1860, to Annie E. Leming, of Yorkshire, England. He is a member of Corinthian Lodge, No. 205, A.F. and A.M. and is a republican in sentiment, but has not yet taken his naturalization papers. Robert Moffatt, the African missionary, was a cousin to his father, and a daughter of the missionary was the wife of Dr. Livingstone, the explorer.

JOHN BUCHANAN, farmer, Paw Paw Grove, was born in Sterlingshire, Scotland, December 15, 1815, and was the son of William and Janet Buchanan. His father was a soldier in the English army; he enlisted about the time of the battle of Waterloo for twenty-one years, and served under Wellington. When seventeen years of his service had expired he accepted the offer of a discharge, accompanied with a land warrant, instead of serving his full time and receiving a pension. He was an excellent scholar and bookkeeper, and could have been promoted to high positions but for the fatal habit of intemperance. The subject of this notice was reared by his grandparents, and when twenty-



one years old emigrated to Simcoe county, Canada West. He lived there from 1836 to 1850 leading a backwoodsman's life in the main, driving ox-teams, and working with axe, auger, hoe, and chain implements. In 1850 he came to Wyoming township, accompanied by his father, and his brother William: here he bought from the government 240 acres of land in Secs. 17 and 20, and began breaking and raising crops. He still owns the same place, and all the improvements on it are the work of his own hands. As illustrating the rapid growth in value of real estate in this part of the country, and how men's wisdom has been outdone by the prodigious improvement of recent years, it may be mentioned as a curious fact that Mr. Buchanan was once offered 160 acres of land adjoining his farm for \$200, but supposing it to be worthless refused to buy. The same land would now sell readily for \$50 an acre. Mr. Buchanan was married to Mrs. Elizabeth Wooley September 15, 1855. Their children, four in number, are Janet, William Henry, Mary, wife of Henry Calkins, and Charlie. Janet is afflicted with total deafness, but converses readily with her mother by watching the movement of her lips. She is a ready writer, intelligent and interesting, and has a large correspondence. Mr. Buchanan is a democrat, and has been a Presbyterian some twenty years. One afternoon in 1860 his brother William took his fowling-piece and started out to shoot a crane. He did not return when he ought, and a violent thunderstorm having arisen in the meantime, it was supposed he had taken shelter at a neighbor's, so no search was made. At length, however, he was found dead west of the house, and it was evident that he had been accidentally shot while getting over a wire fence. The shock was so great to his father that his feeble frame gave way and he died the same week. Mr. Buchanan was now alone without a relative in America, but being in a kind community he has found the best of friends.

JOHN HARDING, lumber dealer and justice of the peace, Paw Paw Grove, was born in Exeter, Luzerne county, Pennsylvania, August 14, 1831. At the age of sixteen he left home and entered a store as clerk his employer giving him \$96 a year, and by close economy he managed to attend school one term each twelvemonth. Afterward he obtained a scholarship in the Wyoming Seminary, located at Kingston, in his native state, and was in attendance there about three years. In 1854 he was at the New York Conference Seminary in Schoharie county. All this time the voice of Horace Greeley was ringing in his ears, "Go west, young man, go west," and in 1855 he left the Empire State to seek his fortune in this section of the country. His journey terminated in Wyoming township, where he engaged in teaching school south of the grove. After a residence here of four years, he returned to the

bosom of his childhood, spending there his summers on the farm with his father and mother, and his winters in pedagogy. In 1862 an ungodly rebellion was scourging the land, and a pressing demand for help came from Uncle Sam. Securing at once letters of introduction to prominent men in Washington, he proceeded there in search of a position on public works, and was attached to the engineer corps at Camp Baker and Long Bridge. After nine months in that place he returned home, and on July 21, 1864, was drafted, and on August 1 paid a commutation of \$300. On the 24th he was mustered into the United States service as recruiting officer of Pennsylvania volunteers, holding the rank of second lieutenant. He mustered in seventy-three men; then went to Harrisburgh and was mustered first lieutenant of Co. G, 210th reg. Pa. Vols., and on September 15 he joined the 5th Corps under command of Gen. Meade. He was in battle at the South Side railroad October 28, and again February 1865, and was wounded while commanding his company at Hatcher's Run, February 6, by a musket ball passing outward and backward through his right elbow joint. Having received a furlough, he went home, but returned to the army in time to witness the last gasp and to help close the eyes of the defunct slave-holding confederacy. His active military life ended on May 18, 1865, when he was mustered out under general order No. 82, and special order No. 238, of the war department; but he was present at the grand reviews of the two armies of Meade and Sherman, which occurred respectively on the 23d and the 24th. On his return from the war, being solicited by his numerous friends in Luzerne county to present himself as a candidate for assemblyman, he did so and received almost the unanimous support of the convention, and became the nominee. It was a democratic "deestriet" and he was defeated by a majority for his opponent of 221 votes. Again the silvery voice of the patriarchal Greeley resounded in his ears, and again his steps followed the setting sun, and brought him to Wyoming township. At the close of the war he received \$1,705, which represented his savings, and on reaching Paw Paw, in October 1865, he formed a partnership with John Colvill, in the mercantile business. After about four years he sold to his partner, and in 1872 began dealing in coal, lime, and agricultural implements. In 1874 he bought the old store formerly used by Colvill & Harding and moved it to a lot south of the highway, with a view of fitting it up for an implement warehouse, but it was demolished by a high wind, and he was forced to replace it with a new structure, which he shortly after disposed of to W. C. Runyan. March 1, 1876, he united in a copartnership with L. Potter under the name of Potter & Harding, and carried on the lumber business until January 1, 1880, when he bought his partner's interest, and since that

time has continued alone to deal in lumber and plastering materials. Mr. Harding stands prominently in the ranks of those who take a large interest in the welfare of the town, and anything necessary to its development never lags for lack of substantial encouragement from him. He has been useful to many who were endeavoring to secure permanent homes, by selling them lumber on easy terms when they were unable to pay cash. As the result of successful industry and economy he is the owner of considerable town property, and enjoys a good home.

E. G. Cass, editor and proprietor of "The Lee County Times," Paw Paw Grove, is a native of Illinois, having been born on a farm near Grand Detour, Ogle county, on October 14, 1858. His parents, Jeramel and Sarah Maria (Grover) Cass, were born in Maryland, Otsego county, New York; the former April 28, 1817, and the latter June 26, 1822. In January, 1860, the family moved to Henry county, and settled at Galva, where Mr. Cass received his first schooling. In 1867 they went to Dixon, and there the subject of this notice attended the north side public school until November 20, 1870, and being a ready pupil made rapid and solid advancement. Up to this date his life had not been marked by incident, but being of an active and industrious habit and turn of mind he cherished a desire for manual as well as mental employment, and immediately went to work in the printing-office of W. M. Kennedy, of Dixon, and continued there until September 1877. During the whole time he was not out of the office two weeks, except for sickness, and now steady confinement and want of recreation had so told upon his health that he was constrained to quit work altogether for several months. In January, 1878, he formed a partnership with J. B. Gardner, and took control of "The Paw Paw Herald," then the property of its founder, R. H. Ruggles, of Mendota. Five weeks afterward the office was sold to its present proprietor, and Messrs. Cass & Gardner, on March 21, issued the first number of "The Lee County Times." They also started the "Compton Record." In May they began the publication of "The Lee Monitor," for the village of Lee. In August Mr. Gardner retired, and Mr. Cass has since carried on the business alone. In April, 1880, he commenced the issue of a paper for Earlville, called "The Leader." Mr. Cass was but nineteen years old when he engaged here on his own account; and having readily worked up a large paying subscription list is evidence that he has conducted his business with ability and success. He is in high standing as a man and Mason. In 1880 he was secretary of Corinthian Lodge, No. 205; in April, 1881, he received the chapter degrees in Mendota, and was created a Sir Knight of Bethany Commandery, No. 28, in the same place.

JAMES FONDA, blacksmith and farmer, Paw Paw Grove, was born at West Troy, New York, October 29, 1816. His parents, William and Abigail Fonda, were both taken away, and James was left an orphan at nine years of age. His school privileges were so limited that at eighteen he could read and write only with difficulty. After four years' serving at the blacksmith's trade, he was married, in December of 1837, to Alsina Bacon, a well-educated lady, who greatly assisted him. She died May 1, 1852, leaving six children. His second wife was Jane E., daughter of John Hendricks, of Wayne county, New York. At the date of his first marriage he was eight dollars in debt, but at the time of his second marriage he had saved up some \$2,500. This was the result of hard work at his trade. Branching out now he managed, besides his blacksmithing, a large farm and saw-mill. In his heavy business he met some severe losses, but was in the main successful. In 1867 he sold out, moved to Paw Paw Grove, and bought what was known as the Christie farm, one of the oldest in this region. He still owns this farm, now well known as "Fonda's Corner." Besides this he also owns property in the village where he now resides. Mr. Fonda had two sons in the service of his country, both in New York regiments. Fitch Fenton Fonda, the eldest son, enlisted, in 1861, in the 69th New York, was under Gen. Hancock, and taken prisoner at Petersburg at the time of digging Dutch Gap canal, and, after enduring the barbarities and untold suffering of Andersonville four and a half months, he was released from the tortures of starvation by the silent messenger death. Edwin R. Fonda, the second son, enlisted in the 147th New York, passed through a severe run of typhoid fever, was severely wounded in the battles of the Wilderness, under Warren, in Gen. Grant's campaign; came home, but returned again after partial recovery. Being a fine penman, he was then detailed as secretary to the quartermaster, and served to the close of the war. He is now an engineer on the Union Pacific railroad, with his headquarters at Omaha. Another son, James H., is engineer on the same road, with his headquarters at North Platte.

JACOB EPLA, farmer, Paw Paw Grove, son of John and Elizabeth (Derr) Epla, was born in Rockingham county, Virginia, January 9, 1820. His father was a soldier in the last war with Great Britain. His parents were poor, and there were no schools, except an occasional one supported by subscription, but he made the most of his meager opportunities and tolerable progress in the elementary studies, though he was not a pupil between the ages of eleven and twenty-one. The clothing he wore in his boyhood was all made from flax raised by his father, and wrought into cloth by the industrious and tireless hands of his mother. He tells how in those days every girl had a spinning



wheel and went about to do work with it at 75 cents and \$1 a week. In September, 1837, the subject of this sketch came to Champaign county, Ohio, and hired out on a farm for \$7 per month. In 1840, being yet six months in his minority, he paid his father \$30 for this time, and made, as he facetiously says, \$5 by the speculation, which was his only capital at majority. He came with a younger brother on foot to Terre Haute, Indiana, on September 1, 1840, where he hired for a year to work on a farm. This was the hardest year's work he ever did. He and his brother picked fifteen acres of corn, cleared and fenced twenty-three acres of heavy timber and had 7,000 oak rails left, cut sixty cords of wood, and burned 200,000 brick. The two following years he worked in the same neighborhood. He was married March 2, 1841, to Catherine Farnham, daughter of James Farnham, of Edgar county, Illinois. He rented land, followed teaming, and bought forty acres in the dense woods, clearing ten and building a cabin. This property he traded for a team in February 1845, and at once set out for Lee county, Illinois. He rented from Charles Pelcher that year the farm of 120 acres where the Oak Grove Creamery is situated, and also received from the government a patent for forty acres of the farm he now owns on Sec. 9, in Wyoming township. The cluster of hard maples standing in his yard were set out by him the same season. His present house was built about 1857. He enlarged his farm to 200 acres, but has conveyed forty of this to his son Josiah, who is occupying it. For six or seven years after coming to this county Mr. Epla was engaged in teaming much of the time. He hauled wheat to Chicago and sold it for 40 cents a bushel, and brought back goods and lumber, which he says he has "hauled all over these prairies." In an early day, about 1849, Mrs. Epla's brother started from Paris in Edgar county, this state, for Paw Paw with a load of apples, and though traced fifteen miles nothing was ever afterward heard of him. Mr. and Mrs. Epla have been the parents of five children. They have buried two, and the living ones are Sarah, wife of E. M. Babbitt; Josiah, and Mary, now Mrs. Isaac Christie, of Iowa. Mr. Epla is a republican, and past-grand of Anchor Lodge, I.O.O.F.

LESTER HARDING, farmer, Paw Paw Grove, was born in Luzerne county, Pennsylvania, February 24, 1815. He traveled through this section of country and visited friends here in 1836 and again in 1839. April 28, 1842, he was married to Miss Jerusha Hall, daughter of Jonathan Hall, of his native county. In 1846 he moved from there with his family, and was thirty-six days performing the journey. In passing over nearly the same route since, by the improved means of travel, which consumed only thirty-six hours, he could not refrain from noticing the striking contrast, and reflecting on the wonders of the age in

which we live. Mr. Harding's father, Isaac Harding, settled here a year prior to his arrival, and purchased from the government 160 acres in Sec. 9, Wyoming township. Sixty acres lying in the northwest quarter he conveyed to our subject when he came, and this he still owns and occupies. He built his house in 1848, hauling his lumber from Chicago. Mr. Harding and his father both promptly acquired high places in local influence and public confidence. The latter had been here but a short time when he was elected to the responsible office of county commissioner, and was a member of the court and assisted to divide the county into townships, when that system of local government was adopted. Mr. Harding himself was the second supervisor of Wyoming township, and held that trust five years. Besides his services in that position he has filled every other township office. In 1858 he was elected sheriff of Lee county, and discharged the duties of that position three years. Politically Mr. Harding is a democrat, and it is a fact worthy of remark that he and Judge Charters are the only men of that persuasion who have been elected to a county office in Lee county in twenty-two years. In 1861 Mr. Harding went to Colorado, and from thence in the spring of 1863 to Montana. In the spring of 1865 he visited British Columbia, and arrived home in October after journeying sixty days. A mine which he sold for \$1,000, in three months after the sale yielded \$8,000. Mr. and Mrs. Harding have had five children; three are living and have their homes in Nebraska. One son and a son-in-law are engineers on the Union Pacific railroad, and live at North Platte. The recently deceased wife of John Colvill was a sister to the subject of this notice. A brother of his is Garrick M. Harding, president judge of Luzerne county, Pennsylvania.

DANIEL M. HARRIS, farmer and stock raiser, Paw Paw Grove, was born in Cayuga county, New York, July 9, 1825. His parents were Daniel and Miriam (Page) Harris. In September, 1846, Mr. Harris came to this township, and bought the farm he has since occupied, as well as a part of the farm opposite, the two pieces being in Secs. 5 and 8, making 120 acres altogether. He returned to his father's place in New York, and on November 18, 1848, was married to Christee Ann Adeline Carmer, of Auburn. In the following spring they came to their prairie home in the west, and the same season built the small part of the house now owned by the Potter heirs, known as the "red roofed house." About 1851 they erected the small part of the house they now occupy. Two stages passed their place daily. In wet seasons it was not uncommon for Mr. Harris to have to get up at night and hitch to the stage with his ox-team, while the passengers with rails in hand lifted at the wheels, when a lift and a pull together would bring the stalled coach out to firm footing. In those times, says Mr.

Harris, his family rode to church at South Paw Paw behind yoked oxen, they not yet having begun to keep horses. These excellent people are the parents of three children: William Arthur, Evart M., living in Marshall county, Kansas, and Dale E., at home. Mr. Harris has been commissioner of highways several years, and is now school trustee. He was deacon in the Baptist church of Paw Paw nine or ten years, and is a republican in politics. Mr. Harris is held in high esteem by all who know him.

W. A. CONANT, farmer, Paw Paw Grove, was born in Chenango county, July 24, 1832, and the son of Elihu and Jeanette E. (Johnson) Conant. His school advantages were quite fair, and included two terms at Glens Falls. He never had any difficulty in keeping at the head of his classes. He came to Wyoming township in the spring of 1849, was married to Charlotte L. Erwin, of Shabbona, and settled on Sec. 27. He bought 200 acres, and has since added to it till now he owns 640 acres. They have three children living: Sarah Jeanette, Mary Elizabeth, and William Terry. Sarah is Mrs. Simon Mann, of the Chicago Stove Works. Mr. Conant has one of the largest and best farms in the county. Mr. Conant enlisted in Co. K, 75th reg. Ill. Inf., and did three years' faithful service. He was in the engagements at Perryville, Stone River, Lookout Mountain, Mission Ridge, Ringgold Gap, and the Atlanta campaign. He was wounded at Perryville. At the reunion of Co. K, September 27, 1881, when a permanent organization was formed, J. C. Howlett was elected president, William A. Conant vice-president, and James H. Thompson secretary and treasurer. Another item of Mr. Conant's history is given elsewhere in this work. To that the writer gave careful investigation, and has given the facts. These speak for themselves.

ISAAC B. BERRY, farmer and stock raiser, Paw Paw Grove, son of James W. and Margaret (Baldwin) Berry, was born in Onondaga county, New York, March 24, 1813. He was raised on his father's farm, and at the age of fifteen moved with his parents to Oswego county, where he left home four years later to learn the carpenter and joiner trade in the city of Oswego. In the fall of 1836 he came to Ottawa, Illinois, worked at his trade a few months, and then went to Chicago, where he remained till the next autumn. From there he went to Warrenville, then in Cook but now in Du Page county, took a claim and improved it, and lived twenty-five years. He was married in that place to Mary Louise Ward, who survived only two years. In 1856 he celebrated his second marriage, with Harriet E. Rogers, of Naperville. His two children are L. Louise, and Mary E., now Mrs. W. A. Pratt. In 1862 Mr. Berry came to Lee county and bought 314 acres of land lying in Secs. 4 and 5, in Wyoming township, and

in 32 and 33 in Willow Creek. Our subject is a republican in politics.

### WILLOW CREEK TOWNSHIP.

The civil township is coterminous with the congressional, which is 38 N., R. 2 E. of the 3d P.M., and comprises thirty-six sections of the choicest farming land in the most delightful prairie situation in the world. The physical features present a pleasing outline wherever one may go. Standing upon either extremity of the valley of Willow creek, he sees unequaled farms running back upon the long slopes and across the ridges, which lose themselves in the general elevation of the country, all stretching far away in gorgeous beauty of landscape. The morning sun in hazy autumn bathes the surface in sparkling tints and mellow radiance, and the blue horizon receding into faint lines displays a misty trace of groves and hedges against a background of watery sky ravishing to the view of animate brush or pencil. Elsewhere than upon the borders of this stream the country lies in bold undulations, excepting a narrow strip on the south side.

Four bodies of woodland are situated in the township, namely: Smith's Grove, Allen's Grove, and the Twin Groves. The first lies in Secs. 34 and 35, mostly in the latter; the second chiefly in the N.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 36, which it mostly covers, and the other two in Sec. 17. The larger of the Twin Groves belongs about equally to the southeast and the southwest quarters, while the smaller occupies the center of the northwest quarter. Side by side they stand; their name had an obvious origin. The others are named from first permanent settlers.

Willow creek takes its source in Wyoming township, crosses the line into this a mile and a quarter east of the southwest corner, and flows north in a circular course, passing through Twin Groves. On the farm of L. G. Durin, on Sec. 7, it bends directly west, and a little lower down on the same section is joined by East Branch. This cuts the east boundary at the southeast corner of Sec. 12, runs southwest to the corner of Sec. 14, and thence northwest nearly to the point of union with the first stream. Native willows found growing upon the banks of this water-course suggested the name for it, and when the township was organized no more appropriate name for that could be adopted than the one borne by the principal creek.

The population is a mixture principally of Americans, Norwegians and Germans, the first predominating, and the second constituting one-third of the whole. The thrift, industry and intelligence of the



inhabitants are conspicuously manifest. By the last census only four, and these old persons, were found unable to read or write.

The enumeration was made in 1880, by Thomas Nelson, Esq., and showed that there were 1,214 souls in the township. One-half the number is of foreign birth. There were 172 farms and 190 farmers. Compared with other sections, the improvements in Willow Creek township are of the first order. Hardly a farm but has a tasteful and spacious dwelling; and the favorite red barns, large and heavily built, contrast pleasantly with the white-painted residences. Planted groves have been reared with universal care, and the willow hedges, which in this township so closely approximate perfection, are the glory of the landscape.

The township was settled nearly simultaneously at all the groves. Peter Gonzolas, a Frenchman, from Dutchess county, New York, came in the fall of 1836, and made a claim of the Shondy farm, at Allen's Grove. He remained only two or three years, and then disappeared suddenly; some say he went west to join the Indians. Before his departure he sold his claim to Richard M. Allen. This was the first farm improved in Willow Creek township. To the neighboring grove came an excellent family in 1837. These were the Smiths. The head of these was John Smith, from Argyleshire, Scotland, who had been educated for the ministry. He arrived in August, and bought a claim in Sec. 35, from James Armour. A prior claim to this land had been made by a man named Cameron, who sold it to Armour. Neither of these squatters was here long, the stay of each being too short to compel the erection of a cabin. A few logs had been cut, and that was all that had been done. The claim which Mr. Smith purchased included all of "Dry" Grove a name given because no creek was near it except a few scattering trees. This name was borne until 1838; when the country was surveyed into townships in that year the grove was designated as Smith's Grove in the field notes. John Smith was the first settler at this place, and erected his cabin close to the spot where his son David's house now stands. In December following the family suffered a great misfortune in the loss of this dwelling by fire, together with their clothing, bedding, money, and a large and valuable collection of books. It was roofed with mowed grass, and in this covering the fire caught. This was the second house erected in the township and the first burned. Another was built right away, some ten rods east of the first. Death entered the Smith household about three weeks after their settlement here. John, the second son, was the first to be laid in the family burying-ground. This was the first death of any white person in the township. Robert and David Smith occupy parts of the original claim which belonged to their father, and

together own the greater part or the whole of the grove. The father died at the old homestead in 1860. A part of the house where David Smith lives, on the home place, was put up in 1855. Uncle John Colvill, of Paw Paw, came from Scotland with the Smiths, to whom he is related, and made his home with them some years at first. With the national affection of the Scotch for home-ties, and their tenacity to things of the past, John Smith, same in attachment as the ancient Scotchman who, on emigrating to Canada, thought he could never sleep so well on any other as on his thistle bed, brought it with him only to throw away, by which last act he propagated a dangerous pest, —brought also the favorite all-iron plow, supposing, doubtless, that not another plow in all the world could turn a furrow like that which turns the glebe in Scotland. But the Scotch plow, like many Scotch notions, had to be straightway abandoned on reaching the new west. At that time the steel plow had not been invented, and the then common implement could not be used at this day, except its use should be compelled by imminent starvation. What glories shine about thy pathway, O Progress!

Dick Allen, who succeeded Gonzolas, and gave his name to the first settled grove in the township, was a character who could boast no savory reputation. Horse-stealing and counterfeiting were the means of livelihood to the criminal class, whose ranks were full. These law-breakers were not separated from the rest of men, if we except a few of the more diligent ringleaders, who were constantly roving in their occupation of crime; but they were settled down and living, scattered everywhere among better people. This could not have been but for sparse settlement, which limited the power of the friends of order. To the extent of that limitation the immunity of the others was enlarged, and their ability to commit crime and avoid its consequences was still more augmented by their dispersion through every community. Each was deeply or not in the business, according to his personal energy; and while these men could not so much escape observation as not to be suspected, it was generally impossible to discover enough against them to insure conviction. It was likewise quite impossible to calculate with certainty on bringing an offender to justice on evidence reasonably complete, because allies whom the penalties of perjury were powerless to restrain were not wanting in any place. Besides, officers of the law had been known to be confederates. Allen lived in a log house and kept tavern from the first. The grove was thickly grown up to hazel brush, and was a safe and easy trysting-place for these men. The neighborhood was exempt from their robberies, a shrewd precaution to render their retreat more secure. The tavern was simply a

station where shelter, refreshment and concealment were supplied to this class from a "fellow feeling which makes men wondrous kind."

We do not know the date of Allen's departure, but he was followed at this place, we are told, by a man named Price. Israel Shoudy came in 1844, bought Price's claim, and has lived on the place until this time.

In 1839 Horatio G. Howlett came from Dixon, where he had been living two years, and settled at this grove. He is still on the same ground enjoying the golden autumn of a busy life. Having spoken of the insecurity of property in the first settlement of the country, an anecdote of Howlett is apposite to the subject. David A. Town was elected justice of the peace, and Mr. Howlett constable, with the understanding that neither should exact any fees in civil cases. These two men were the inspiration of vengeance in the eyes of those who set the law at defiance, and were chosen to their offices because it was well known that they would act with vigor and decision. One day Town sent Howlett a warrant for the arrest of a man named Lovelin, charged with horse-stealing. He went to Allen's house and was told that Lovelin was in the field plowing. Securing the horse, and putting him under guard of another, whom he instructed to take deadly aim with his rifle on Lovelin the moment he should give the order, he went to the field and read the warrant to the man. He was pointedly told by the criminal that he would not go with him. Howlett, unperturbed by this, told him that he could do as he pleased about submitting; that he supposed Lovelin was armed, while he himself was not; but he should take the horse, saying this with much determination. Lovelin, feeling that he had been victorious thus far, promptly replied that Howlett would have to pass over his dead body before he could touch the animal, and both started for the stable. The instant they arrived Howlett demanded his surrender, and receiving a defiant refusal ordered his man to draw a bead at his heart, and to fire when ordered; then taking out his watch gave him barely a minute to submit to arrest. His hands began to twitch nervously in token that bravado had given place to fear, and he tamely yielded to be handcuffed. Then was taken from him a huge bowie-knife, and pistols. He was bound over, but gave bail and was released. Soon after, he further complicated his situation by stealing Allen's wife and horse. He was caught by his bondsmen, with Allen's assistance, and lodged in jail at Sycamore. He broke out, and lay in a stream of water until nearly dead, to avoid discovery, but was subsequently retaken and lodged in jail at Galena. One day when the jailor's little boy carried his victuals to him he succeeded in getting out of his place of confinement, and catching the child in his arms ran to the top of the cliff near by. When the



*William J. Fritz*





sheriff started in chase he halted him below, and, holding the child between them, made a clever speech in which he conceded the right and duty of the sheriff to pursue and recapture him, but pointed out that he could have no personal motive in so doing beyond that involved in his official obligation, and added that liberty was dear to himself; that he was now free and should continue so at any cost; and wound up with the terrible threat that if followed another step by the officer he should dash the child down the precipice upon the rocks below. Without recourse, the sheriff naturally enough desisted from the pursuit, and the desperado escaped. The only word of him ever received here was when he was in jail in St. Louis on another charge of stealing. Judges Caton and Drummond, who used to pass Allen's Grove traveling from court to court, told Mr. Howlett of this last episode. This was the first arrest of a horse-thief in Lee county.

The Indian trail from Ottawa north to the hunting grounds in Wisconsin ran through Allen's Grove. The Indians were once paid their annuities by the government at this place.

Twin Groves were first named Moore's, from William Moore, the earliest settler there, who began his improvements in 1837 at the south grove. James Thompson and Levi Lathrop came together as early as 1842, and in partnership bought Moore's claim, on which he had thirty acres of plowed land. Moore was paid \$50 for the timber claim where the Thompson homestead has always been and aunt Amanda still resides. It is described as the N.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of S.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 17. Not long afterward Mr. Thompson bought out Lathrop's interest. He received a patent for this land, dated July 1, 1845, and three years later another for the S.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of S.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$ . Robert Blair, by marriage brother-in-law to Mrs. Thompson, came here from Malugin's Grove with those we have mentioned, and bought a claim to part of the north grove, but never purchased it from the government. About 1850 he moved back to Malugin's. He died at the house of Mrs. Thompson in the present year, 1881. The first birth at Twin Groves was a son of his, Robert Blair, in 1846. On his settlement here Thompson improvised a shelter with rails—a rail pen,—and covered it with straw; lived in it several weeks. This was succeeded by a log cabin, scarcely better for some time than the pen, but after chinking the crevices with rags and shutting out the free and often raw winds, they lived along in unchecked comfort until the rank grass and weeds, which grew in the humid atmosphere of the grove to the height of a man's head, began to decay and give their juices to the air; then every one of them fell with ague except Mrs. Blair.

These first settlers were here three or four years before others began to come, and their nearest neighbors were at Malugin's Grove.

Then George Wise and Isaac Gardner, brothers-in-law, started improvements at the north grove; they did not stay long, but sold to Mark R. Averill. Wise went to California, and Gardner to Florida. Averill's residence here was also short, for in the winter of 1853-4 he moved to Paw Paw, and embarked in trade, having first sold his land to Jacob B. Fisher, who came in the autumn of 1853.

Cummings Noe was an early man at Twin Groves, and settled there, as near as we can learn, in 1846. He first set up in a pen similar to Thompson's, which he did not think of calling a house. His home for many years was on the place now owned by B. F. Ellsworth. He and Mr. Thompson and James Smith entered, from the government all of the south grove. This is now owned by Mr. Thompson's widow and William Dunkelberger. Jacob Fisher's widow and L. H. Durin are the present proprietors of the north grove.

The settlers here had at first only Indian trails to guide them across the billowy prairie. The earliest white man's road, though never surveyed, was one staked out by Erastus Noe, from Twin Groves to Hickory Grove, and used many years. Hogs were found running wild in these woodlands before any person came to make a home. They probably strayed away from a distant owner, or were lost from a passing drove.

In the summer of 1847 James Smith and Nathan Koons left Franklin county, Ohio, and came to this township. The latter made a home in the extreme southwest corner, and still owns the original homestead. The former settled at Twin Groves on a tract of 300 or 400 acres which he had previously entered. Joseph Barnhardt came in company with these men. The only buildings at the groves on their arrival was Noe's hasty cabin, already noticed, and Thompson's log cabin and hen-house. The immigrants made a descent on the hennerly, drove out the fowls, and occupied the building to sleep in, while they still took their meals in their wagon. It is said they were homesick. Doubtless. Next day Shabbona and his tribe came that way. It was in the month of June, still the wind was raw and chilly, and this grand old chief, and as many of his followers as could, huddled behind the wagon for shelter.

Before departing from Ohio Smith cut a willow walking-stick and announced his intention to plant it when he should arrive at his prospective home; and, unmoved by the jibes of his skeptical friends, he predicted over and over again with great confidence that he should raise an immense quantity of timber from it, and realize thousands of dollars. He was not wide of the mark. Cutting the cane into four pieces, he set them in the ground, and in a few years had willows forward enough to furnish a good many cuttings, which the people were

glad to get. During the war a man from Galesburg, named Platt, bought up the trees growing in this region, prepared and shipped the cuttings in car-loads to all parts of the west, selling them at a good figure, persuading patrons that in willows were just the right qualities for live fence. For some two years this was a thriving speculation, and gave many hands employment. This township has miles upon miles of willow hedge growing in great beauty and perfection. It has been so much a favorite for the reason that it furnishes a great amount of wood and timber in a short time, as well as a tolerable enclosure of land, that osage orange has not been able to make any considerable headway against it, although vastly superior for the single purpose of fencing.

As early as 1847 Jesse Koons arrived from Ohio, and A. N. Dow also settled here.

Samuel Reese, a young man, came now to live at Mr. Thompson's. Probably the next year, James Stubbs, a bachelor, and a married brother reached this community; the latter died not long after, and the other moved to Mendota. Cyrus and John Goff came as early, and lived here a few years. The former located his house between the two groves, and kept tavern on the route of travel between Ottawa and Rochelle. L. H. Durin and Gilbert Durin, brothers, came from Vermont in 1849, and settled here, the former on his present homestead. The latter has removed to Steward. These are men of substance and great respectability. Ira Durin did not come till some years afterward. He was a useful citizen and office-holder, who has now moved away.

Wesson Holton, another Green Mountain Yankee, located his family northwest of the groves in 1852, and was many years employed in mill-wrighting. He has taken an active part in the public affairs of the township and held various important offices. He sent three sons to the army in time of the late war.

William L. Smith arrived in 1853, or earlier, and James A. Harp the next year. Mr. Harp held township office several terms. The first arrival of Byrds, who settled on the north side of the township, was in 1853. They were from Virginia. There would be nothing to say of them had they sympathized with their country in the dark hour of pro-slavery, treason and rebellion. Louis P. Braithwaite came in 1853, and Louis P. Smith in 1854.

Returning now to the neighborhood of Allen's and Smith's Groves we mention the later settlers without regard to the order of their arrival. Dr. Basswood came about 1840 and remained four or five years. Nathaniel Allen and his family came in 1845. His sons were Harrison, Nathaniel, Chandler, Ephraim, and Alonzo; and he had four daughters.



Chandler did not reach here until the following year, when he entered the land where he now lives, the S.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of S.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 26, and the N.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of N.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 35. Benjamin Nettleton had settled here as early as this period. Isaac C. Ellsworth, a Vermonter, emigrated from Ohio in the spring of 1846. His son Benjamin he had sent in advance the autumn before with a drove of stock, being compelled by the extreme drouth of that year to remove it from that state. Ellsworth settled on Sec. 34.

Christopher Vandeventer, formerly from New York, arrived here from Michigan in 1848, coming with a two-horse team, and driving sheep and cattle. He made his home where he at present lives, on the S.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 24, and built a log cabin. At that time not a house stood between his own and Broady's Grove, 17 miles north. His father settled at the same date east of the grove, in De Kalb county.

As near as we can ascertain the following persons located themselves in the neighborhood of these groves between 1846 and 1855: Matthew Atkinson, Perry Atkinson, Amos Atkinson, McNabb, Richard R. Walker, Andrew Stubbs, Freeman Crocker, Daniel Maxwell, Sylvanus Staples, Prince Stevens, Hugh Wells, George Clark, Richard Clark, John Platt, and Alonzo Osborne. Jephtha P. Mittan settled in the southwest part of the township about 1850, and is still residing there.

In the east part of the township settlement was made on Willow creek by John B. Briggs in 1851, and John H. Bacon and E. E. Bacon about 1854. Briggs' location was on the northeast corner of Sec. 14, and the Bacon last named was a little higher up, on the same side of the stream, where he planted a large nursery and did an extensive business.

#### GERMANS.

In the first half of the middle period, as we regard it, German immigration set in, and the first of that nationality to settle in Willow Creek was Gotlieb Hochstrasser, in 1854. A little later, and probably the same year, was Joseph Herman; in 1856 Frank Bates, Frank Herman and John Herman came, and in 1857 a second Frank Bates and Areheart Hochstrasser. These were all the Germans who arrived up to this date; after a short interval others made their appearance, the most conspicuous of whom is John Yetler, in 1859. Next year George Erbes, one of the solid and reliable men of the township, brought his family.

At the present time these people number nearly 200, and for thrift and good citizenship are unsurpassed in any part of the country.

#### NORWEGIANS.

Ommon Hilleson, the first Norwegian immigrant to Lee county, is regarded with so much pride by his countrymen as to suggest the

attributes of a Scandinavian deity, and a little notice of him at the head of this article will not be out of place. He reached our shores in 1837, and walked all the way from New York to Chicago. From the latter place he started for the Norwegian settlement on Fox river on foot, but being overtaken by a covered wagon filled with men, women and children, and being invited to ride with them, got in. He was by this time able to understand a little English, and when two of the men got out and walked behind and talked together about his money, their real character and intentions were revealed to him. He had some money, and no doubt his situation was uncomfortable, until a man and a woman driving a team providentially overtook them, when he leaped out as the charmed bird flies when the spell is broken, and sprang into the other wagon without a word of parting to the one or of introduction to the other. His leap in the dark had brought him to good footing, for this time he had not fallen among thieves, but among some of his own people going home to Fox river, and his journey thither was happily relieved of further unpleasant incident. It has a singular seeming, but is nevertheless a verity, that with scarcely any knowledge of the English vernacular he left all his countrymen behind and pushed forward to Lee Center among strangers, not in habit, sentiment and nationality only, but in language also. This shows him to have had the truly pioneering spirit; he could not have been less than a pioneer. Having obtained work there, it was not long till he was able to start independently, and he settled in Bradford township, where he became wealthy, and his widow, Elizabeth Hillison, yet resides. In course of time, as a certain consequence, other Norwegians came and settled around him, and as their numbers increased they scattered out, many going early to Sublette township. The first to go was Lars Larsen Risetter, in 1847, who was also the second to come to Willow Creek.

The earliest Norwegian settler here was Amund Hilleson, a single man, who emigrated to Sublette in 1851, and having saved enough from his first year's wages, in 1852 bought the N. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 15, his present home, at the government price of \$1.25 per acre, and in the spring of 1855 came on it to make his permanent residence. Toiling here year after year with the patient, unrelaxing industry of his class, he has increased in worldly goods and grown in the regards of the whole community until there is no man who stands fairer, and none could more justly so than Amund Hilleson. He was followed early in 1856 by Lars L. Risetter, from Sublette, who had at this time been in the country long enough to secure a considerable start, and who located his family on the S.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 15, which is now occupied by his son Lewis. The story of how Mr. and Mrs. Risetter labored with unflagging perseverance in and out of doors, and bought and sold crops and land, combin-

ing calculation with severe labor, and making for themselves in a few years a handsome fortune, as well as adding greatly to the consequence and prosperity of the township, is one that cannot be told in our narrow space. But his neighbors say, "No man made money so fast and so fairly by hard work and economy, and from large crops and the rise in values, as Mr. Risetter."

The third Norwegian settler was Edwin O. Winterton, who improved the N.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 15; the fourth was Amund Cragowick; the fifth was Thomas Hilleson; the sixth was Lars Salmonson, who began his home in the center of Sec. 16 in the winter of 1860-1; the seventh was Ole Olson; then came Edwin Edwards in the spring of 1862, and bought the N.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of N.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 11; Lars Oleson in the spring of 1863, and settled with his family on Sec. 10, where he at present resides. Christopher Oleson came about the same time, and in 1864 Jacob Oleson began to improve the N.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 1. Helder Nelson came to the N. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 2, and William Oleson to Sec. 16. Later arrivals, without regard to date or order, were Edwin Edwards, N.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 11; Helder Eden in the same location; Lars Hilleson, S.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 14; and Nels Oleson, Peter Johnson, Allen Johnson, Andrew Eskland, Lewis P. Boyd, Lars Knutson, Vick Winterton, Thomas Oleson, Christ. C. Alsager, Hans Johnson, Jacob Edwards, Hawkin Risetter, Newt Boyd, and Thomas Nelson.

There are now 400 of this nationality in Willow Creek township; and concerning the cultivation of the humbler arts of peace and the practice of the soldierly virtues in war, this writer can say from personal knowledge that few equal, while none excel, them.

#### PIONEER FACTS.

Chicago was the first trading point for this part of the country, and people went with ox and horse teams, singly and in companies, but generally in companies, as it was not often that a team could make a trip without getting stalled at least once on the road, and it was of no little advantage to have help at hand for every distress. Forty bushels of wheat made an ordinary load. When stuck in a slough the bags of grain had to be carried over on the teamster's back, and the fewer there were to divide the task, the longer and more arduous were the labor and detention. Sometimes the water was deep; then if there were wagons enough they were unloaded, placed end to end across the stream, and with the end-boards taken out formed a bridge that answered well the object of its improvisation.

One time, when uncle John Colvill and David Smith were hauling grain to Chicago, their wagons got set in the mud and they had to carry the bags of wheat across the slough on their backs. In doing

this uncle John pulled off his boot-soles and had to go into Chicago barefooted. The hostler, just from Erin, viewing him from head to foot, in innocent wonder broke forth: "Where in the dickens part of the world did ye come from?" The bootless man felt that he must be in sorry plight indeed, but was skeptical of Pat's judgment when, in feeding the horses the rank, coarse slough-grass, then so common, he volunteered the information: "And sure and 'tis the biggest timothy that grows in this country."

Usually a horse-team made the round trip to Chicago in seven days, stopping there just long enough to feed and do trading. Teamsters not infrequently took along cooked provisions and camped out at night when the weather was good. Taverns were not wanting on the road, but the patronage dispensed to them made a heavy inroad into the profits and sometimes wholly consumed them. A pioneer of 1845 says there was then no room in Chicago to put up teams, that he had to sleep and feed his team in his wagon, because accommodations were inadequate. That was thirty-five years ago in a city than which not another in the world, say travelers, is better supplied with facilities for public entertainment. He had taken to market forty bushels of wheat, which sold for sixty cents a bushel, and he received twenty cents per bushel for hauling. His expenses were \$3.50, leaving \$4.50 for seven days on the road with his team. But occasionally a load of merchandise was brought back for hire, and this made a more profitable trip.

After the opening of the Illinois and Michigan canal, Ottawa and Peru became trading centers, and when the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railroad was constructed to Mendota, in 1853, a market was established still nearer, at Earlville. Only wheat and pork were hauled by teams to Chicago, the latter to be sold for \$1 to \$3.50 per hundred; but when these other points were opened to trade, corn and oats were sold there. Aurora was an important trading place, and a good many did business there, especially as it was where they often went to get grinding done. The grist-mills at Dixon, Fox River, Binghamton, and Dayton's above Ottawa, drew custom from all this region. When one went to mill he took a full load, all the neighbors sending a grist by him; he would be gone two or three days, and would not have to renew the journey until each of his neighbors had been to mill in the same manner. Cooperation was practiced in everything. In getting stock to Chicago neighborhoods made up droves together. How beautiful was the spirit of this period! The pioneers avow in sad agreement that if they had the power they would

"Roll back the tide of time, and raise  
The faded forms of other days."



The first roads in the country were laid out on Indian trails. The Chicago and Galena, and the Ottawa and Rockford roads were surveyed mainly along such traces.

In the beginning Galena exceeded Chicago in size and importance, the lead mines there attracting men in pursuit of labor from parts as remote as the Wabash and the lower Mississippi. Mr. H. G. Howlett has seen as many as twenty teams together pass Allen's Grove in the spring going to Galena, where they would remain through the summer and return in the fall.

For many years buffalo bones were numerous in low places, and the first settlers were told by the Indians that before any of the whites came the buffaloes perished one hard winter. This was the winter of 1830-1. Snow fell to great depth and blew into immense drifts ten and twelve feet deep. The cold was intense and prolonged. For more than forty days under a beaming sun the eaves of the cabins farther south did not run. The buffaloes resorted to the low places for tall grass, and great numbers never got away. The following winter, though less severe, was remarkable as well for exceeding inclemency.

#### EDUCATIONAL.

The first school at Allen's Grove, the earliest in the township, was taught in 1848 by Miss Martha Vandeventer, sister to Christopher Vandeventer, in one of Israel Shoudy's log houses. Mr. Shoudy had several of these and was keeping tavern at the time. A Miss Nettleton and Miss Laura Brace kept school in the same place a little later. In the autumn of 1849 a frame school-house was built by subscription on nearly the site of the present one, the land being donated by Shoudy; and the next winter the first school was taught by Miss Clara Price. Miss Smith, of Shabbona, was an early teacher in this house, and Israel Shoudy says uncle John Colvill trained the shooting ideas of the young in the same place.

The first school ever taught at Twin Groves was in a log cabin in James Thompson's dooryard, the one which he put up on his settlement there. The name of the first teacher is swallowed up in time unless, as has been suggested, it was that of the widow Stubbs, who was an early tutoress. Miss Maria A. Holton, now Mrs. B. F. Ellsworth, taught in this cabin in the summer of 1853. The Twin Groves school-house was built in 1854 by the joint efforts of a number of individuals, and in the autumn of 1857 was purchased by the district at auction. In the winter of 1863-4 it was burned down, and the present house was erected the following summer. Miss Mary J. Fisher taught the first term in the new house.

The Ellsworth school-house was built in the spring of 1855, says

Mrs. Ellsworth, who kept the first school that summer. Joseph McCoy hauled the shingles and finishing lumber from Earlville, and the house was regularly used for religious worship. Another occupies the old site, and David Smith has the old building for a shop.

The Vroman house was built not far from the same time of the last, and Miss Helen Vroman was a teacher in it a number of terms.

The Norwegian parochial school was established in 1866 as a part of the Lutheran church system, having for its object the education of the children so that they can be taught the catechism in the language of their fathers. In the beginning the sessions were held in private houses; next in school-houses during public vacations. The Lutheran community embraces parts of Alto and Willow Creek townships, and is divided into three private districts for select school purposes. Six months' school are held each year, one half in the spring and the other in the fall. Those living in Alto, and nine families in Willow Creek near the town line, constitute the Alto district, and hold their school in Union district, No. 10. They have had two and one-half months' every year since it was instituted. The third, or south district, which has occupied the school-houses in districts No. 5 and 7, has had two and a half months', leaving one month for the village of Lee, where the term is held in the public school building. The school was organized by the Rev. C. G. P. Peterson, preacher in charge, an able scholar and divine. Rasmus Rasmusson, a good old man in the congregation, took control of it for a month and until a regular teacher could be found. The first was Thomas Nelson, who has taught more or less up to the present time. The following other teachers have also been employed at various times: Hendrickson, Christopherson, J. Gössendal, Iver Fanebust, E. Teffre, S. W. Weeks, J. J. Maakkestad, and another who was a student at the time. Only one instructor is employed in the same period; he teaches first in one district and then in another. The school is maintained by subscription, and has about 100 pupils, divided among the three districts. The scholars attend the English public schools regularly. The south district built the present year (1881) a private school-house, 18×26, on the southeast corner of Sec. 15, at a cost of nearly \$500, including furniture and fixtures, neat patent seats being among the latter. Holden Risetter donated one-half acre of ground for the building site.

The present township treasurer is E. W. Holden. His report for the school year ended June 30, 1881, shows nine public school-houses in Willow Creek, and an estimated value of school property of \$5,550. Number of children under twenty-one years of age, 581; between six and twenty-one, 372; enrollment, 304; principal of township fund \$6,525.08; tax levy for schools, \$1,558.68.

## POST-OFFICES.

This township has had two country post-offices. The first was the Willow Creek office, called by the people "Twin Grove," where it was established, as near as we can ascertain, about 1849. Robert Blair was appointed first postmaster, but as he moved away about that time he never handled any mail. It was actually established at the house of one of the Goffs, who had it for a short while, and until he removed, in 1850. Gilbert E. Durin now took it until some time in 1853, when it passed into the hands of William L. Smith. After keeping it for a time he deputed a man named Beckwith, who turned out to be a speculator, and then he took it back to his own house. It is said that James Harp was the next postmaster, and that when the office again changed hands it went to Squire Ira Durin's. We cannot follow all the changes with certainty, but are told that a William Moore was postmaster at one time. B. F. Ellsworth was the incumbent from July, 1866, to 1873; the office then went to A. H. Knapp's, and from there to Adam Miller's, when it was discontinued about 1875.

The South Willow Creek post-office was established in time of the war, and was kept by Hiram J. Abrams, on the south line of the township, and on Sec. 34. It was kept up until about 1873.

## PIONEER WORSHIP.

Pious hearts raised altars to the Most High, and companies of people came together at convenient intervals for public devotion. Elder Baker, a transient Presbyterian, was the earliest regular preacher at Allen's Grove that we have heard of, and held meetings in the Shoudy school-house. Occasional services by the Rev. Cantfield and Elder Wood, of Earlville, and an exhorter named Olmstead, antedated Elder Baker's ministrations. Wood and Olmstead were Methodists. It was the custom of these men to visit all the neighboring settlements, and they preached at Twin Groves as well as here. Elder Smith and the Rev. James Price should also be mentioned. Classes were formed at the school-houses after the inhabitants had become numerous enough to have such meeting-places and to establish an orderly system, but all we can say is that what was done was for the good of souls and the glory of God, for few traces remain of actual occurrences, and the recollections of the good fathers and mothers in Israel refuse these treasures out of the abundance of their forgetfulness. How quick is the good forgotten! How long doth the evil remain!

The first sermon at Twin Groves was preached by a Methodist minister from Rochelle. The Rev. Richard Haney was the first circuit preacher, and came there with tolerable regularity. He was extremely

fond of wolf-hunting, and never missed an appointment when circumstances favored a good catch. On one occasion he secured seven of the animals, which he dug out of their burrow. Elder Wood preached at the groves several years subsequent to 1853; when he began we have no means of knowing. The Revs. Davids and Roberts labored there regularly anterior to 1860.

#### POLITICAL AND WAR HISTORY.

Formerly what is now embraced in Wyoming, Willow Creek and Alto townships was a part of Paw Paw precinct, and elections alternated between Malugin's and Paw Paw Grove. After the adoption by the county of township organization, in 1849, this territory was formed into Wyoming, whose dimensions were not changed until 1855, when Willow creek was organized with its present bounds, including the area of Alto township.

The first annual town meeting was held at the Twin Groves school-house in district No. 3, April 3, 1855, and was organized by the appointment of Ira S. Durin as chairman; A. N. Dow was elected moderator, and G. Bishop clerk, and they were qualified by E. Woodbridge, justice of the peace. The recorded proceedings show that besides the election of officers, the running at large of stock and penalties relating thereto were the chief subjects acted upon.

In 1861 Willow Creek was reduced one-half in size by the organization of Alto township.

Until 1860 the polls were held at the Twin Groves school-house; the next two or three meetings, including two special ones, were at the Vroman school-house; then they were moved to Allen's Grove; and in 1865 back to Twin Groves. In 1867 and 1868 the Vroman house was again the polling place, and in 1869 the Center school house, the meetings going back again for two years to the Vroman, and in 1872 to the Center house. In 1874 the election was at the red school-house, and the next year at Adam Miller's. At the town meeting in 1874 a resolution was presented by C. M. Bacon and adopted, instructing the town board to take the initiatory step toward procuring a building lot for a town-house near the center of the township, and to report to the next annual meeting the probable cost of each, a site and a hall. John Yetter, supervisor; L. G. Durin, assessor; Dwight Davenport, town clerk, and Robert Thompson and H. G. Howlett, justices of the peace, reported that one acre on the southeast corner of Sec. 16 could be purchased for \$150, and that a building 20×34, with 12-foot posts, would cost about \$800. A vote was taken whether to buy and build, resulting with 50 in the affirmative and 47 in the negative. The house was erected the same season, the whole property costing the township \$1,100.



The annual meeting in 1876 organized at the nearest school-house and then adjourned to the new town-house.

At a special meeting held at the Vroman school-house October 16, 1869, to vote upon the question of subscribing to the capital stock of the Rock River railroad, 1 vote was cast in favor of and 24 against the proposition. Another called meeting was held at the same place on March 26, 1870, to vote for or against taking stock of the Chicago and Iowa Railroad Company to the amount of \$50,000, on the condition that they should construct their line within one mile of the center of the township. On this proposal 75 votes were recorded in its favor to 51 against it. The company failed to comply with the condition of the agreement, and the township was thereby released from its obligation. Willow Creek is flanked by these two roads, which furnish all the inhabitants convenient markets without their taking any of the burdens.

The following township officers have been elected from year to year:

Year.	SUPERVISOR.	TOWN CLERK.	ASSESSOR.	COLLECTOR.
1855	Robert Smith	G. E. Durin	Prince Stevens	William Byrd
1856	Wesson Holton	George Bishop	L. G. Durin	B. F. Ellsworth.
1857	Wesson Holton	James A. Harp	Chas. R. Hall	William H. Dow.
1858	Wesson Holton	James A. Harp	Chas. R. Hall	Hugh Wells
1859	Chas. R. Hall	James A. Harp	L. G. Durin	Hugh Wells
1860	James A. Harp	A. C. Smith	William Sutton	J. P. Mittan.
1861	James A. Harp	A. C. Smith	Benjamin Nettleton	William Byrd.
1862	Benjamin Nettleton	M. N. Danton	William Sutton	Charles Miller.
1863	Benjamin Nettleton	James A. Harp	L. G. Durin	C. M. Bacon.
1864	Ira S. Durin	Chas. E. Hall	L. G. Durin	H. B. Davenport.
1865	Wesson Holton	Dwight Davenport	L. G. Durin	D. M. Nettleton.
1866	Wesson Holton	Dwight Davenport	David Smith	J. C. Howlett.
1867	Wesson Holton	Dwight Davenport	David Smith	O. B. Jones.
1868	Wesson Holton	Dwight Davenport	David Smith	F. C. Mason.
1869	Wesson Holton	Dwight Davenport	David Smith	B. F. Ellsworth.
1870	John Yetter	J. C. Howlett	Adam Miller	James Miller.
1871	John Yetter	J. C. Howlett	Adam Miller	John Edgar.
1872	John Yetter	B. F. Ellsworth	C. M. Bacon	R. Wells.
1873	John Yetter	B. F. Ellsworth	C. M. Bacon	John R. Sherwood
1874	John Yetter	Dwight Davenport	Robert Smith	George Beemer.
1875	John Yetter	Dwight Davenport	L. G. Durin	George A. Brittain.
1876	John Yetter	J. C. Howlett	Adam Miller	W. H. Brvant.
1877	John Yetter	J. C. Howlett	Adam Miller	A. L. Irwin.
1878	J. C. Howlett	R. J. Thompson	W. W. Brittain	L. P. Boyd.
1879	J. C. Howlett	R. J. Thompson	Adam Miller	L. P. Boyd.
1880	J. C. Howlett	R. J. Thompson	Adam Miller	Robert Hopps.
1881	J. C. Howlett	R. J. Thompson	Adam Miller	Robert Hopps.

In 1861 C. M. Bacon was appointed town clerk, vice A. C. Smith, who moved away. The following have been elected justices of the peace, and possibly a few others whom the defective records do not enable us to identify: in 1855 Ira S. Durin and Henry Bishop; 1858, H. C. Holcomb; 1860, Joel C. Jackson; 1862, Ira S. Durin and C. M. Bacon (the latter did not qualify); 1865, R. H. Walker; 1866, M. G. Phillips; 1867, L. G. Durin; 1868, William H. Dow and Hugh Wells; 1870, William H. Dow; 1872, H. G. Howlett; 1873, W. Holton; 1874, H. G. Howlett; 1877, R. Thompson; 1881, W. H. Emmett and Thomas Nelson.

During the war the fires of patriotism burned brightly on the altars of the country, but nowhere more brightly than in Willow Creek. She lavished the flower and strength of her yeomanry upon the greedy appetite of war, and the anguished rents in her Spartan firesides tell what woful work was done in the ranks of her sons by ghastly disease and red-handed carnage. Those who remained at home—the old men, the wives, the mothers, the sisters—upheld the hands of the government with exalted devotion.

A Union League was organized late in 1862, when it was feared that the state would be invaded by foes without, and convulsed by enemies within. A membership of about seventy was formed into a company, of which Nathaniel Nettleton was the captain-president. Andrew Stubbs was the marshal of the organization, which assembled generally at Allen's Grove and Vroman's school-house, and was drilled by John Edwards, of Paw Paw, a veteran of the Mexican war. After the presidential election, in 1864, the league fell into neglect.

Before the close of the war the township voted a bounty of \$600 to every volunteer who should be credited to Willow Creek after that date. No draft soiled her garments.

We annex a list of the soldiers who went from this township in the time of the war, and though it may not be without error, it is believed to be as correct as it can now be made with no records for authority.

N. Chandler Allen, Alonzo Allen, Harrison Allen (also in Mexican war), David Anderson, Dewitt Abrams, Devalson Abrams, Sylvester Bidwell, John Baisley, George Baisley, William Baisley, G. S. Briggs, Adin Briggs, John Britton, Alpheus Beemer, Charles Bennett, Reuben Bactil, Joseph Barnhard, Bigelow Barnhard, Lewis P. Boyd, Orin Sisco, Levi Cashner, Robert Donaldson, Alexander Donaldson, Frederick Erbes, John Edgar, John Ellsworth, Lewis M. Fairchild, George W. Girard, Ehrhart Gehrig, James C. Howlett, George Hollenback, Edward Hollenback, Charles E. Hall, Moore Hess, Santee Hess, Edmund W. Holton, Densla Holton, Chandler G. Holton, George Hochstrasser, Orlando Jones, Andrew Jackson, Sivert Johnson, Morris Johnson, Joseph Kengular, Zephaniah Kengular, Nelson Larsen, S. S. Linton, Jonathan F. Linton, F. C. Mason, Peter Mittan, Chauncey Mittan, James Miller, William Miller, Merritt Miller, Clement Miller, Frank Mills, Francis Mills, William Mills, Amos Noe, William Noe, Hamilton Nichols, Thomas Nickleson, William Nettleton, Daniel Nettleton, Benjamin Nettleton, Nathaniel Nettleton, Jacob Schwab, Alexander Schwab, Jacob Smuck, Charles Steinbrook, George Seymour, William Steele, Thomas Steele, John Shoudy, John Smith, James B. Smith, Bayard Smith, Alexander Smith, John

Unger, David Vroman, Robert Vroman, Abram Van Patten, Irwin Vandeventer, William Vandeventer, Christopher C. Vandeventer, jr., Robert Wells.

#### TORNADO.

The tornado of Sunday, June 3, 1860, struck this township about 9 o'clock at night, midway of the west line of Sec. 18. William Cutts was within eighty rods of it when it left the township; he says the noise was not unlike the rattle and clatter of a freight train when standing close to it, except that the former was tremendous in volume. Boards, plows, harrows, timbers, reapers, stoves, furniture, earth, stones, animals,—everything that it could gather in its way was whirling, dashing and crashing with a thundering roar and force that filled the ear with a sound of picturesque terror, as much as if heaven and earth were battling for the same space at once. Andrew Stubbs, standing out of its range as it went by, saw it first several miles west, and describes its appearance as it approached and passed.

The night was moonlit, and from where he watched the tempest the moon was visible throughout. Massive pillars of flaming cloud were piled from earth to sky; the top was a sheet of fire; shafts of electricity, as large to view as a stovepipe, poured in hideous currents down the seething mass of inky blackness, presenting a sight of sublime horror.

The first house in Willow Creek which received its fury was Abram Miller's near the township line. It was unroofed, then taken up, carried over the well and the stable, but failing to clear a straw-stack was overturned and scattered in all directions. The occupants were Mr. Miller, Mrs. Miller, and two small children. The mother lay some time under a part of the roof in an insensible condition, having sustained considerable injuries. None of the others were much harmed. The children, sound asleep in their beds when the shock occurred, were blown twenty five rods into a wheat field, where one of the little fellows was found shouting lustily that all the windows were broken out. A tin boiler standing beside the house, full of water, was not disturbed; and a book of receipts, brought from Iowa, was picked up on the farm. Gilbert E. Durin's place was the second reached. His house stood nearly out of the path of the electric monster, but a small addition was snatched away and dashed into fragments. James Nealis and another man were blown into the tops of some locusts in the doorway, and the former was cut so badly in the thigh, on a scythe hanging upon a limb, that he bled nearly to death. A. N. Dow's premises were the next to suffer. His house was seized as if it had been a toy, carried into the air and turned roof downward, going to pieces in utter

wreck. Eight persons composed this family, and all were more or less hurt, one child having an arm broken.

The moving column raised slightly at Twin Groves, through the south one of which it tore a gap ten to twenty rods wide, leaving the undergrowth but little disturbed, while twisting, splintering and interlacing the taller trees, mostly stalwart black walnuts, in the wildest disorder. The damage to the timber fell chiefly on William Smith. Thompson's house, a very heavy structure, was unroofed, and the large building moved on its foundation. His strong corn crib and two log stables shared the general ruin. A man named Schieler, living on Thompson's land, had his house demolished, and all seven of the family were severely injured, and horribly begrimed as if violently rolled and dragged in fine dirt.

From this point to Sec. 14 lay a stretch of prairie, and no injury to life and little damage to property were done; but there a house belonging to William Bacon, occupied by Allen Johnson and his sister, Norwegians, was wrecked. The inmates, on the first appearance of the storm, had luckily gone to a neighbor's, and thus escaped its terrible fury and danger.

The county line was reached midway of Sec. 13, and here at Allen McConeky's the most painful destruction was accomplished. It was now between nine and ten, and the family had retired. Rain had been falling hard but calmly before the crash came, and Mrs. McConeky arose to attend to keeping it out of the windows. The wind began to rise, and in a few moments so increased that she remarked to her husband that the house would blow away. He sprang to her side at the window, and at that instant, she relates, she saw the east side of the house coming in upon them, but can remember nothing more, save that she was conscious of lying on the ground with a heavy weight resting upon her body. The house was shivered to atoms. Mr. McConeky was killed outright, also the eldest and the youngest boys. Another little son was terribly bruised, and all hope of his recovery was for some time abandoned. Mrs. McConeky had an arm broken. Horses and cattle were killed here as elsewhere in the path of the destroyer.

In this vicinity a boulder weighing half a ton was lifted from the ground and carried some distance; but the most curious exhibition of power was at the point where the storm ended its work, three-fourths of a mile east of the county line. At this place was a piece of newly broken prairie. The furrows lay parallel with the direction of the tornado, and the tough sods were lapped up, twirled into a close body, and deposited forward in a pile of ten or twelve wagon loads. As if glutted with disaster, the storm now raised, and carrying on its dismal and solitary energies high up in the air, moved on to Lake Michigan, where it lost its identity.



## COUNTRY CHURCHES.

In 1868 a church under control of the Methodist Episcopal denomination was erected on the southwest corner of Sec. 16, jointly by the Methodists, Congregationalists, and United Brethren, and is called the Twin Groves Methodist church. The ground on which it stands (one acre) was conveyed by James Thompson and his wife Amanda, to James Thompson, Henry Lewis, Aaron Smith, L. G. Durin, and M. A. Rice, trustees, in trust for the Methodist Episcopal church. In consideration of certain subscriptions by the Congregationalists and United Brethren, they have a guaranty of use upon certain conditions set forth in the deed. A reservation in favor of the Methodist denomination empowers them to annul the joint ownership by refunding to the other societies the respective amounts invested by them in the edifice, whenever they shall deem the sole occupancy of the house necessary. The building is 30×40, neat and shapely, with a high spire, and cost \$3,500. Over half of this sum was subscribed in advance, and the remainder was secured at the dedication, delivering the societies from debt. Mr. James Thompson and aunt Amanda enjoyed the privilege of being the most liberal donors. Besides the site, the former contributed \$1,000, and the latter \$630. The house was built by the Rev. Seeley, Methodist contractor, who had taken to supplying pulpits in a manner not contemplated by Holy Writ; the terms of the contract were disregarded, yet the work was accepted, and in 1874 it had become necessary to make extensive repairs, which amounted to \$600. The dedication was on November 9, 1868, and the services were conducted by the Revs. F. A. Hardin and A. P. Beach. The first regular Methodist preacher in this house was the Rev. C. C. Combs, and the Rev. Brewer represented the Congregationalists. The Rev. Wendell was one of the first, if not the first, who preached for the United Brethren. Among his successors there have been the Revs. Young, Bender, and two Lewises. Following Combs there have been the Revs. Curtis, Farmiloe, Stoddard, Davis, Hoffman, Tibbals, Record, and others whose names cannot be given. The Rev. Record began his ministry in 1879. The most important incident in the history of this church was the protracted effort in the winter of 1868-9, lasting seven weeks and resulting in over 130 conversions. The Rev. Combs conducted the revival on the part of the Methodists. Over 100 united with his society. When he came on the circuit the Methodists here had only nine members, and these were all women; but during his pastorate the number was swelled to more than 130, including those on probation. These were divided into classes, some of which have had regular preaching, and have become as strong as the parent church. The membership

has been reduced by removals to about eighteen. The Congregationalists have nearly all left, and the United Brethren no longer have a class, but the neighborhood keeps up a Sabbath-school. The present trustees of the church are James Fisher, E. M. Pettenger, George A. Brittain, Richard Phillips, L. G. Durin, Caleb M. Bacon, and one or two others.

The Congregational society, now disorganized, was first formed about 1859. Some of the original members were Ephraim Durin and his wife, Harper B. Davenport and wife, Woodbridge, the Rev. James Brewer and wife, and Simon Cole and wife; Caleb M. Bacon became a member subsequently. The membership at no time exceeded seven-teen. This was organized under the Home Mission, from which it obtained aid; and the first preacher was the Rev. Brewer; the second was the Rev. Henry Buss, and the third and last was the Rev. Breed. A salary of \$200 a year was paid the pastors, and services were held in the Twin Groves school-house until the erection of the church. The society was involuntarily disbanded by the removal of members.

In the spring of 1864 the Rev. Jacob Fowler revived the Protestant Episcopal society which had formerly been in existence, and brought together some fifteen constituent members. He was a man of kindly spirit and excellent character, and left behind him a reputation as an able and faithful minister. Under his pastoral labors the infant organization grew to respectable numbers, not fewer than thirty or forty, including in the list of the principal ones Adam Miller, Samuel Argrave and wife, Winfield Argrave and wife, Abram Rosenkrans and wife, Lydia Miller, Joseph McCoy and wife, Henry Abrams, Jephtha Mittan, Nathan Koons and wife, and Alexander Beemer and wife. This work belonged to the Shabbona mission, and the first two years the worshipping places were the Ellsworth and Beemerville school-houses. In 1866 the society, with the outside help furnished, felt itself able to raise a house of worship, and accordingly undertook that object. The house, 30×40, was built at an expense of \$2,600; but a contribution of \$1,800 was obtained in Chicago through the exertions of Elder Fowler. The dedication took place on Sunday, August 6, 1866. The Rev. Madison Handy succeeded as the second pastor, and during his charge also the church prospered. He, too, was a man of gentle spirit and manners, and was followed by the Rev. A. C. Wallace, whose earthly warfare unhappily brought the tottering society to a violent fall. Having become too weak to maintain preaching without assistance from other people, and being in arrears to the pastor in the sum of \$500, he procured a judgment in the circuit court, levied upon the church, and sold it under execution. It fell to him under the hammer, and he disposed of it in 1874, to the United Brethren society,

for the amount of his claim. This house stands across the road in Wyoming township, on the N.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of N.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 6.

The membership of the society now owning this building is contained almost entirely in Willow Creek, which name the society bears. The organization dates from 1857, with twelve original members. The first pastor was the Rev. Adams, the first class-leader C. Noe, and the first trustees R. Hall, C. Noe and H. Lewis. The number of members is twenty-four. The present minister is J. L. Harrison; class-leader, J. M. Able; trustees, R. Hall, J. M. Able and C. Allen. Fifty scholars form the Sabbath-school.

The Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church of Lee county was first organized in the fall of 1858, by the Rev. Didrikson, who made one visit to Bradford township. The members were widely scattered in Sublette, Bradford, Lee Center, and Willow Creek, and meetings were at first held four times a year, and distributed to the several townships. The Rev. A. C. Preus came after the church was put in working order, and ministered to all the people of this faith. Meetings began to be held more frequently, and the worshipers here assembled at the Byrd and Twin Groves school-houses. The Lutherans gradually left the other townships and settled in this and Alto, and when they erected their present church, in 1864, twenty or more families were in the community. We can mention the following: Amund Hillison, Lars L. Risetter, Lars Salmonson, Jacob Oleson, Helder Nelson, Jacob Peterson, Holden Peterson, Lars Oleson, William Oleson, C. Christopher, Edwin Winterton, Lars Hillison, Haakon Risetter, Thomas Hilleson, Christian Hillison Sexer, Omund Oleson Cragvick, and the Boyds. The Rev. Preus remained over the congregation a year or two and gave way to the Rev. C. J. P. Peterson, under whose charge the church was built and the parochial school established. This church is the most graceful and stately edifice of the kind in the township. Its location, in a beautiful and commanding spot from which one may view the country for miles in almost any direction, adds much to its attractive appearance. A lofty, beautiful spire pierces the clouds, and arrests the eye at a great distance. The house is  $34 \times 60$  feet, substantially built, and cost \$3,500. It is situated on the northeast corner of the W.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of N.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 11. A parsonage of twenty acres on the town line is the property of the church, and is described as the E.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of N.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of N.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 2. It was purchased in 1870, for \$40 per acre, and the same year the south part of the residence was built. In 1875 the main or front part was added, completing the building for \$1,700. The present year (1881) a barn has been put on the premises at an expense of \$200. The place is neatly kept and ornamented with evergreens and the common varie-

ties of deciduous trees. The deacons are H. Nelson and Vick Williams, and the trustees are Thomas Nelson, Einar Buer, L. Helland and O. P. Boyd. Since the Rev. Peterson the following pastors have been settled here: G. O. Jukam, P. A. Rasmusson, J. Tackle and J. Nordby. The salary paid is \$450, which is increased by incidentals from baptisms, funerals and marriages to \$600. The congregation numbers 460. A Sabbath-school is kept up through the pleasant part of the year, and at the present time it has a membership of seventy, under the superintendency of the pastor, who, according to the custom of this church, has the charge of such schools. Instruction of the children for one year, beginning at the age of fifteen, is attended to one day in every week by the pastor, and is called "preparation for confirmation." At the end of the course they are confirmed, and become a part of the visible membership of the church. In the churchyard a few graves have been made. The first burial was that of Thomas, son of Lars L. Risetter, who died September 23, 1864.

The Zion church of the Evangelical Association belongs to the Rochelle circuit, and holds services once a fortnight. Its thirty-three members are all Germans. For six years prior to the organization, in 1868, at the Byrd school-house, regular preaching was had there every two weeks by one or other of the following ministers: J. M. Sindlinger, Henry Messner and L. B. Tobias. Some of the most prominent original members of the class were William Dunkelberger and wife, John G. Yetter, John Yetter and wife, Philip Yetter and wife, Gotlieb Hochstrasser and wife, George Hochstrasser, Julia Yetter, and Mary Hochstrasser. William Dunkelberger was the first class-leader. The society was organized by the Rev. John F. Shnee, who continued as the first pastor. His successors have been the Revs. G. M. Young, John Schweizer, A. Gotschel, A. Strickfaden, C. Ghestatter, J. K. Schulz, and the present pastor, J. J. Lintner. The first trustees were John Yetter, William Dunkelberger, and J. L. Lutz, and the present ones are John Yetter, Christ. Rothe, and Peter Wagner. A flourishing Sabbath-school is well attended the year round; seventy three scholars are now enrolled, with John Yetter as superintendent. Mr. Yetter has filled this responsible position ever since before the organization, and has been a class-leader in the church several years. The society owns a tasteful and substantial house of worship, standing on the southeast corner of Sec. 5. It was erected in 1875 at a cost of \$3,000, including the lot which it occupies. The dimensions of the building are 32 x 46 feet, and the dedicatory services were held by Bishop Jacob J. Escher.

Mass was first read to the German Catholics by Father Westkam, of Mendota, at the house of Peter Kimbler, about 1863. At that time there were Peter Buchholze, Peter Schneider, John Herman, Joseph



Herman, Frank Herman, Frank Bates, Thomas Down, Frank Bates, jr., Peter Kimbler, and six other families who joined in the organization. Only ten of these were permanently settled in the township. Father Westkam advised the immediate building of a church, and nearly \$2,000 were at once subscribed. The next year a house built of stone and costing some \$3,000 was erected on the northwest corner of the S.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 16; the main building is 26 $\times$ 40, with an addition sometimes used for a school in which the children receive instruction in the technical education required by their religion. John Harman donated four acres of ground for a churchyard. The first priest who celebrated mass in this church was Father Nigg, of Mendota. Fathers Goldsmith, Gobbels, Anthon Butter, Frank Schriber, Fralech, Joseph Baenak and Charles Hahn have been the later celebrants. Father Hahn, the officiating priest at the present time, comes from Chicago once a month. Fifteen families now constitute the membership of the church.

A German Lutheran society was organized in 1870 by the Rev. William Halleberg, at the Byrd school-house, with the families of the following-named persons: George Erbes, Ehrhard Hochstrasser, George Hochstrasser, Godford Gherich, Lewis Gherich, William Hackmann, Henry Schultz, Jacob Rubel, Jacob Scheinholtz, and John Scheinholtz. Preachers have served this society in the following order: Revs. William Halleberg, Charles Weinsch, John Feiertag, H. H. Norton, W. O. Oeting, and W. Krebs. There are now eight families who hold meetings at the Byrd school-house once in five weeks. They have a Sunday-school superintended by the pastor on preaching Sabbaths. George Erbes has been the trustee from the beginning.

A society of Dunkards was organized at the Byrd school-house in 1863. Occasional meetings had been previously held in other places. The original members were eight in number, as follows: John Toft and his wife Margaret, Alva R. Harp and his wife Amanda, William Vroman and his wife Elizabeth, and D. C. Vroman and his wife Catherine. Their numbers finally increased to eighteen. The Rev. John Fillmore settled in the township soon after the organization and was the only minister the society ever had. A. R. Harp was the first deacon. Services were held at the Byrd, Beemerville and Twin Groves school-houses. At the end of three or four years the members removed to Marshall county, Iowa. An organization of Dunkards holds regular services still at the Byrd school-house.

The subjoined notes relating to pioneer history should have appeared under their proper heads. As early as 1844, and from that date for eight or ten years, regular preaching was had at Allen's Grove. About 1848 a Presbyterian society was formed, and maintained an existence several years. The Revs. Baker, Breed, and another, were the preachers.

Afterward a Methodist society was instituted. The Rev. Gammon, a Baptist, also held meetings at the Grove.

A family of Littletons came to Smith's Grove near 1845, and the younger members lived there until recent years. A Scotch family of Platts arrived about 1854 from Aurora, but were originally from Prince Edward's Island.

#### CEMETERIES.

Besides churchyards and some private burial lots there are the Ellsworth and Twin Groves cemeteries, both desirable locations for sepulture. The former is on the south side of the public road and of Sec. 34, and obtained its name from Isaac C. Ellsworth, on whose farm it was laid out. The other is situated on the S.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of S.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 17, adjoining the public road, on a prominence falling off on every side, and washed on the north by Willow creek. Mrs. James Thompson gave one acre and sold half an acre more for this site. It is held in trust by the school trustees of the township, who sell the lots for \$5 apiece. Several handsome monuments have been set up in this beautiful city of the dead. Each, Durin, Miller, Rees and Yetter, have one, and the Thompsons two.

"The dead are here. I hear their steady throw  
Of shuttles moving in the upper sky,  
Weaving a fabric pure and white as snow."

#### VILLAGE OF LEE.

This flourishing village is situated in the counties of Lee and De Kalb, the part on this side of the line being on the northeast corner of the S.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 1. The Chicago and Iowa railroad was completed to this point in the autumn of 1871, and at once a movement was begun to inaugurate business. From a slight beginning has grown a live town, bristling with activity, running over with trade, and from which more produce is shipped than from any other station on the line. The population is largely, if not principally, Norwegian.

The first building put up was a small one by Christopher & Jorgens, which was used for a grain office and grocery. J. Cheasbro built an office at the same time and started trading in grain, coal and lumber. Both firms had their offices up in the fall, but transacted no business until after New Year's. R. J. White built the first store in the spring of 1872, on the northeast corner of Main and B streets, and soon after a post-office was established and he received the appointment of postmaster. His partner, named Knight, sold out after three months to A. B. Trask; the latter disposed of his interest to Henry Moore, and he to W. H. Bryant. The firm then added farm machinery to their trade. In 1874 White retired, and Mr. Bryant accepted the appoint-

ment of postmaster, and has been the incumbent of the office until now. After three years he disposed of his store, and has since dealt only in agricultural implements.

After White, J. Johnson started next in a general store on the west side of Main, between A and B streets. In July, 1872, the railroad switch was finished; freight began at once to be delivered, and then the place took a sudden advance. Abel Downer opened the third general store, including a stock of drugs, on the southwest corner of Main and B streets. Ostewig & Leyder started the same season in hardware.

The first dwelling was built by James Minnihan in 1872; the next March W. H. Emmett erected the second; and in 1874 others went up, among these Mr. Christopher's, east of the track.

Frank Bacon built a hotel on B street, in the early winter of 1872-3; in 1874 A. B. Trask built the second, which is now the only place of public entertainment, and is called the Clifton House, a well kept establishment, of which John A. F. Lambert is proprietor.

The north elevator, built by J. Cheasbro, went up in the fall of 1872, and immediately in the winter following Christopher & Jorgens erected the south one. The first butcher shop was opened on B street, east of the track, in 1872; next year William Finton moved it onto Main street, north of B, where he has enlarged it, and now occupies it for a market and dwelling. Miss Margaret Edsall, first milliner and dress-maker, opened rooms in 1873. The present drug store, kept by W. F. Forbes, was built in 1873 for a saloon, and the next year moved to its present location on B street. In 1873, also, Lars Helland put up a wagon shop, and Iverson & Espe a smithy. These shops and the elevators were on the east side. The same year N. D. Schoenholz built a harness shop, L. L. Risetters a store and dwelling on the southeast corner of Main and B streets, Lars Midnes a notion store, Knudt Tyson a photograph gallery, and Trask a store and dwelling, first occupied by C. H. Rathburn, and afterward sold to John Dyas for a saloon. Cheasbro sold his elevator and lumber-yard this year to McLean, West & Co.

Stevens and Prestegard built a hardware store on Main street in 1875, and B. H. Skoyles began the grist-mill, finishing it the next year. In 1879 Christopher & Jorgens remodeled their elevator and put in a stationary engine and wood-working machinery. The present year (1881) Sardis Vosburgh erected a handsome brick store on the northeast corner of Main and B streets. This is the first brick structure raised in Lee.

The village was incorporated in 1874, and the first board of trustees, consisting of James G. Boardman, Arthur McLane, William R. Baumbach, A. B. Trask, and W. H. Bryant, held their first meeting

August 11. McLane was chosen president, and John Johnson clerk of the board. The trustees for the current year are P. P. Hill, president; William W. Hallett, clerk; W. H. Emmett, T. P. Dalton, H. W. Johnson, and K. O. Ostewig. This town, no more exempt than others from annoyance, has been, like them, plagued with the saloon nuisance. In the spring of 1878 the party opposed to licensing the sale of liquors came into power, and have since that time been in the ascendancy. This good achievement was originally due to the revival efforts of Mrs. Trego, from Ohio, a temperance lecturer who came and held meetings two weeks.

The first school was opened in December 1874, in the Dyas building, with W. H. Emmett as teacher. In the summer of 1875 Miss Eva Bryant taught the school in the Midnes building, and the following winter it was kept in the same place by Henry W. Davidson. In the spring of 1876 Miss Margaret Edsall taught a term in the shop she had formerly occupied in the millinery business; and that summer the district built the present school-house. In this building Miss Hampton kept the first term; J. L. Johnson then had the school two years, and the later teachers have been Miss Mary Griffin, J. W. Shanks, William H. Hallett, and Mrs. George Lattin. This is a union district, and Henry E. Daniels, Charles Childs and A. B. Trask were the first directors.

A converted Jew, calling himself Prof. Ryder, delivered the first public discourse in the fall of 1874, in the Dyas building, which had been used for a saloon. The room was not yet cleared of the rubbish of the ungodly traffic, and the seats were made by laying planks upon the empty beer kegs found on the premises. The same day a union Sabbath-school was organized in this house, and W. H. Emmett was elected superintendent. Preaching was now begun here by the Rev. Nicholson, of Shabbona, for the Methodists, and the Rev. Clouse, of the same place, for the Baptists. The next summer the public and the Sabbath schools, and the religious meetings, were removed to the Midnes building, where each was regularly held until the school-house was erected, in 1876. The two denominations held alternate services up to the time that the Methodists built their church, in 1877, when the Baptists discontinued their meetings about a year. They have since used the Methodist church every other Sabbath. Elder Clouse preached until January 1, 1879, and the Rev. E. W. Hicks since that date. The Methodist ministers after the first have been Pomeroy, one year; A. B. Metler, two years; Dickens, one year, and W. H. Records, one year. The Sabbath-school has always been a union one. W. H. Emmett was the first superintendent, for two years, the school then lapsed the same length of time and was revived with Samuel Hender-



son for superintendent. He was followed after the second year by J. W. Shanks for one year; then W. H. Emmett returned to the position six months, and now T. P. Dalton has it.

The Methodist church, built in 1877 and dedicated December 30, cost nearly \$2,000. In the following April the steeple was struck by lightning, causing a damage of \$125. The house is a gothic, 28 x 42, durably constructed, with a chaste exterior, and surmounted by a neat spire. It stands in De Kalb county.

Before the Catholic church was built in Lee, people of that faith had to travel long distances to attend mass; the nearest was at Twin Groves on the west, where services are held but once a month. It was thirteen miles to Rochelle, eighteen to De Kalb, and twenty to Sandwich. In view of the needs in this matter, in the spring of 1878 M. P. Harris, John Kennedy, James Kirby and Bernard Malloy started the scheme for building a church in this place. Kirby was designated by them as treasurer, and Harris acted as secretary. These men went to the Catholics living in the adjoining country, and from those who would give to the object they took good notes, bearing ten per cent interest, and in three days raised \$3,000. John Kennedy, James Kirby and Stephen Kirby divided the notes equally among themselves as collateral, and each advanced \$1,000. The men first named now went forward and built the church. John Kennedy gave one acre of ground where the building stands, and this, with his cash contribution, amounted to \$500, the largest sum donated by any person. The house cost \$3,200. It occupies a slightly location in the west part of the village, and is 40 x 60 feet on the main foundation, with an extension in the rear running back eighteen feet. It was dedicated in the autumn of 1878 by Father Verdin, vice-president of the St. Ignatius College, Chicago. Father Edwards, of Rochelle, was the priest in charge when it was built. Mass is celebrated every other Sabbath by the Rev. Father Tracy, of the same place.

#### BIOGRAPHICAL.

ROBERT SMITH, farmer and stock raiser, Paw Paw Grove, son of John and Jane (Colvill) Smith, was born in Argyleshire, Scotland, June 22, 1822. Emigrating with his parents in 1837, he reached Ottawa in July, and the next month arrived at Smith's Grove, so named from his father, the first settler. This designation was given by the government surveyors. Prior to this the place had borne the name of Dry Grove, for the reason that it was watered by no stream, and two claimants had been in possession, namely, Cameron, who sold to James Armour and he in turn to John Smith. The claim included all the woodland except a scattering growth, and lines called for no attention at this period, for

none had yet been established by survey. Neither house nor cabin had been built and only a few logs cut. The family located on Sec. 35, Willow Creek township, and erected a cabin on or near the present site of David Smith's house. In December they were rendered houseless by fire, but the loss of house was the smallest damage, for with plenty of timber at hand that could speedily be replaced, but not so with the gold and silver coin lost in the ruins, and the clothing, and bedding, and fine large library of books dissipated in smoke and air. This was the second house built in this neighborhood and the first burned in these parts. A second cabin was erected by the Smiths a few rods east of the first, and soon they had relapsed into routine ways, with too many frontier cares for time to contemplate sadly their diminished wardrobe and furniture, but it was no easy matter for a reading family to become reconciled to the loss of their books. Besides the subject of this sketch the Smith children were John, Alexander, Martha, and Jane. Alexander was born on arrival at Ottawa, and John died in August, immediately after the settlement at Smith's Grove. This was the first death in Willow Creek township. The family remained together until Martha's marriage to William Hopp, about 1840. Mr. Smith's present farm is a part of the original claim. He made entries of land at different times directly from the government. The first pieces were the S.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  and the N.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of S.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 35. He owns 290 acres, in the highest state of improvement, hedged with willow and osage orange, containing valuable orchards, and a beautiful two-story residence, with arcade in front and elegantly furnished throughout. This place, known all over the country as Willow Farm, has a high reputation for the natural beauty of its location and a variety of cultivated attractions, which denote the rare taste of its possessor. In an article upon this delightful country seat the "Amboy Times" says: "The Willow Farm, the residence of Robert Smith, two and one-half miles north of West Paw Paw, is an exhibition of art and nature combined, to show what could be done to harmonize discordant elements and to grow into symmetry a beautiful home-residence in this great State of Illinois. Mr. Smith's father came to this country in an early day and selected this choice spot now matured into a paradise. . . . All in all this impresses one with a love for a country home." Mr. Smith was united in marriage with Miss Harriet M. Baisley, daughter of John H. and Jane M. (Low) Baisley, of Wayne county, Pennsylvania, December 26, 1856. Mr. Baisley was reared in Philadelphia and Mrs. Baisley was a lady of French extraction, from whom, doubtless, Mrs. Smith inherited her exquisite love of the beautiful. Three children have blessed their union and inspired their home with the sunshine and gladness of domestic joy: Ella G., a graduate from the Jennings Seminary, at Aurora, whose accomplish-

ments in the fine arts are of a high order, is the wife of Teal Swarthout, of West Paw Paw. Bertha B., now Mrs. William Crompton, living near Chatsworth, Livingston county, displayed at a very early age a delicate poetic taste and power, which suggests at once a recollection of those fairies of verse, the Davidson sisters. When fifteen years old her poems, appearing under the name of "Bertie," were admired and received appreciative comment. One piece, written when she was fourteen, entitled "Would that I were a Child Again," leads the reader to think of the writer as one of mature years. Clyde W., the youngest child, is living at home. He has been about two years in attendance at the Classical Seminary at East Paw Paw, and this season will enter the Chicago University to fit himself for the practice of the law. Mr. Smith is a republican in politics. He has held township office and was the first supervisor of Willow Creek township.

DAVID SMITH, farmer and stock raiser, Paw Paw Grove, son of John and brother to Robert Smith, was born in Argyllshire, Scotland, July 16, 1831. His father was thoroughly educated for the ministry in the Presbyterian church, but abandoned his purpose to become a farmer. In 1837 he came to America and located with the rest of the family at Smith's Grove, which received its name from his father, as the original settler at that point. In December after arrival the cabin which they had erected was burned down, and nearly all their effects, including a large and valuable library, were lost. His father in trying to remove a trunk containing all the coin they had and other articles of value was burned in the face by ignited tallow streaming down from overhead, and was obliged to drop the trunk and leave it to be destroyed with its contents. This misfortune made him destitute, and he had to buy corn on credit at \$1 per bushel. It was seven years before he could pay for it, and the same time elapsed before he was able to save \$50 to buy forty acres of land. He gave for his claim in the first place \$150. While struggling in the midst of straits and difficulties a cousin in Scotland sent him \$100, which seemed at that time like a special providence in the form of a small fortune. To raise the \$50 mentioned he sold cows at \$7 apiece and a very fine young mare at \$35. At that time three-year-old steers would bring but \$11. People hauled pork to Chicago and sold it for \$1.50 to \$2.50 per hundred. Potatoes delivered there brought thirty cents, and wheat frequently no more than forty cents per bushel. At the Farmers' Hotel, in that city, a man could get supper, lodging and breakfast, and hay for his team, all for fifty cents. When Mr. Smith's father died, in 1860, he had three hundred acres of land as the reward of his industry, privations and self-denying. The mother did not survive long after their arrival in Illinois, but died in 1840. Deer abounded here in great



numbers, and wolves were so numerous that the repeated attempts at sheep husbandry were aggravating failures. Young Smith embraced such opportunities as there were for schooling, and obtained a fair education by attending winters until he was of age. His earliest teacher was Robert Walker, who taught first on the town place, and to whom he went six terms. Another of his instructors was a man named Smith. His school was on the west side of Peru street north of the depot in West Paw Paw. Mr. Smith is the owner of several choice tracts of farming land. In his homestead on Sec. 35 are 110 acres and across the road in Wyoming in Secs. 1 and 2 and 330 acres more. In Sec. 3 of Wyoming and Sec. 34 of Willow creek are 112 acres, and in the latter township in Sec. 26 are 120, and Sec. 33 still another piece of 80 acres. On the death of their mother, about 1864, Mr. Smith received into his family nine nephews and nieces over whom he has exerted a truly benevolent and fatherly care. Three have died, three are doing for themselves, and the others are still at home. None of his nieces have married. To each of the boys he gave \$1,000 when twenty-one. Since reaching manhood Mr. Smith has been most of the time in office. He was assessor several terms, and school trustee and treasurer fourteen years.

NATHANIEL A. NETTLETON, deceased, was born in Ireland, September 30, 1829. About 1843 his parents, Benjamin and Maria (English) Nettleton, with their family came to Sterling, Illinois, and in 1845 removed from thence to Smith's Grove, in this county, where they bought a farm in Sec. 35, Willow Creek township. This is now owned by Philip Pierce. After Nathaniel became of age he worked out, rented farms on shares, and traveled according as circumstances favored his so doing. On December 28, 1858, he was married to Miss Jane Smith, daughter of John and Jane (Colvill) Smith. Shortly after this event he bought the Bishop farm, adjoining the home-place on the west. In February, 1865, he enlisted in Co. I, 15th Ill. Inf., and was taken sick while in camp in Chicago. He was furloughed to come home and recruit his health, and three weeks later died at his residence, of inflammation of the lungs, contracted by exposure in the barracks. A sudden change in the weather found the soldiers without an adequate supply of blankets. Mr. Nettleton was interred in the Ellsworth burying-ground. His widow, thus bereft, had the sole care and training of three small children fall to her lot, but by judicious management she has been able to keep her family together and to save her home. All the children are still with their mother. These are Cora, Harley, and Arthur. The eldest is twenty-one and the youngest nearly eighteen. Mr. Nettleton's father was a carpenter, and not in very easy circumstances when he came to this state.



LEWIS M. FAIRCHILD, farmer and stock raiser, Paw Paw Grove, was born in New York, June 22, 1831. When he was five years old his parents, Samuel P. and Willmot (Ogden) Fairchild, moved to Canada, where they resided eighteen years. Early in 1850 our subject apprenticed himself to the blacksmith trade at Mount Pleasant, learning it in three years, together with carriage ironing and all kinds of work appertaining to this business. In the spring of 1853 he came to Lee Center, this county, and worked one year; after that he was employed at West Paw Paw by James Symonds and made the first stirring and breaking plows and corn cultivators ever manufactured in the place. He was married here December 3, 1854, to Elizabeth, daughter of Oliver Edmonds, of Shabbona, De Kalb county. Her father was an early settler near Washington Grove, in Ogle county, to which place he came in 1838 and made a claim of 160 acres, which he sold to John Edwards. In 1855 Mr. Fairchild removed to Amboy and the following spring went by ox-train overland to California, making the journey in three months. He was on the Pacific coast less than four months and returned via Nicaragua and Graytown. Early next year he located at Shabbona Grove and worked at his trade two years. In 1859 he bought 120 acres in Sec. 33, Willow Creek township, where he now resides, and to this subsequently added a tract of eighty acres. In 1862 Mr. Fairchild enlisted in the 75th Ill. Inf. He fought at Perryville, where he was three times struck with bullets; one was stopped by the brass on his belt and another lodged in his pocket-book. At Stone River he was captured by the enemy and escaped, but was retaken the next day. He had been in their hands but two hours the second time when Col. Brownlow led a cavalry charge on the Murfreesboro pike and rescued the prisoners, including Mr. Fairchild. During Mr. Fairchild's absence his wife, quite as heroic as any soldier in the field, remained on the farm plying her lonely cares and waiting with fortitude for her husband's return. From December, 1864, till the next September James Pike, of the 1st Tenn. reg. rebels, was the hand in charge of the place. He was a prisoner and enlisted in our navy, but by reason of a wound was rejected and Mr. Fairchild got permission to send him to work on his farm. The subject of this sketch had three brothers in the 13th Ill. Inf. He is a republican and a Mason, and belongs to the Methodist church, of which Mrs. Fairchild is also a member.

LEWIS E. DURIN, farmer and stock raiser, Steward, was born in Newfane, Windham county, Vermont, March 8, 1820. His parents, Ethan and Mary (Gates) Durin, were of English descent. When our subject was fifteen his father moved to Franklin county, Vermont, where he owned a farm. Lewis stayed at home till he was twenty-one,

and his health having become impaired he spent his twenty-second year at Saratoga Springs. The next seven years he worked most of the time as a laborer. In 1849 he came to Rockton, Winnebago county, Illinois. In the autumn of 1850 his brother Gilbert arrived from the east, and the two together entered, in Secs. 5, 6, 7 and 8, pieces of land aggregating half a section. In 1853 the parents also came west, and from that time until their death, in 1865, they had their home with Lewis. The mother died February 23 and the father April 11. On February 8, 1854, Mr. Durin was married to Miss Margaret Rees, daughter of Thomas and Margaret Rees, of Virginia. They have had four children: Martha died in 1861, at the age of six and a half years; Ida M. lives at home; Ada E. is the wife of W. W. Brittain, and William G. is at home. Mr. Durin has made a number of changes in his farm, by selling off and buying again, to bring it to that standard which his fancy approves, and now it is one mile square and contains many pleasing and valuable improvements. The grove is a feature that cannot fail at once to attract notice. It covers four acres, one half is white ash, the other European larch and a few soft maples, the whole regularly arranged in rows. The value of his land is much enhanced by the fine buildings which it contains. There are seven principal ones. His beautiful residence stands near the site of his old house. Two barns are each  $30 \times 50$ , one is  $30 \times 68$ , the hay barn is  $30 \times 40$ , the corn barn  $24 \times 50$ , the carriage-house  $20 \times 30$ , and the granary  $16 \times 24$ . Mr. Durin is a republican in politics. He has been four times elected assessor. His brother, Ira S. Durin, for some ten years justice of the peace of Willow Creek township, will be remembered as prominent in the early history.

E. W. HOLTON, farmer, Paw Paw Grove, son of Wesson and Hepsibeth (Durin) Holton, was born in Vergennes, Vermont, May 21, 1839. His father was a millwright. In 1853 he moved west and settled at Twin Grove, where he still resides. Edmund lived with his grandfather Holton at Dummerston, in his native state, until the next year after his father's departure, when he ran away, and by the aid of a little money given him by an uncle reached Chicago. Arriving on Sunday he asked for entertainment at the first house he saw, and was kept till Monday. The man being a workman in a machine shop he accompanied him to his work in the hope of getting something to do for money to continue his journey, but his entertainer was generous enough to raise \$5 for him and he went on his way with gratitude in his heart. He came directly to Twin Grove, knowing that here he should find his father and the Durins. He worked the first year for his uncle, Ira Durin, and after that was at home with his father till his majority. Beginning in the autumn of 1860 he worked by the month for nine

months at Prophetstown, Whitesides county. In August, 1861, he volunteered in Co. B, 34th Ill. Inf., and the first engagement in which this command participated was at Corinth. Mr. Holton was taken seriously ill at Nashville and was discharged on surgeon's certificate. This sickness disqualified him for labor during the first year at home. On December 25, 1862, he was united in marriage with Miss Cordelia Mittan, daughter of Jephtha Mittan. In the fall of 1863 he took his father's farm and worked it twelve years, and in October, 1875, bought his present home, an improved farm of eighty-six acres, on Sec. 20. Mr. Holton is a republican. His four children are Elmer D., Arthur R., Wesson, and Larilla. His grandfather, Wranslow Holton, is living, at the advanced age of ninety-two.

DWIGHT DAVENPORT, farmer and stock raiser, Paw Paw Grove, son of Erastus and Pamela (Dayton) Davenport, was born in Delaware county, New York, June 15, 1829. His father was a farmer in good circumstances, who had eleven children. At the age of ten our subject went to live with his uncle, Charles Davenport, a merchant at Angelica, Alleghany county, New York. Here he attended school at the Alleghany Academy four years, and was graduated in the class of 1850. The remainder of the time he was clerking in his uncle's store, until 1859, when he came west and settled in Willow Creek township, buying 120 acres of wild land in Sec. 27, on which he is still residing. On January 31, 1854, he was married to Miss Margaret Hickman, daughter of Abram and Esther (Searles) Hickman, of Lansing, Tompkins county, New York. They have reared one son, Charles T., who married Miss Mary, daughter of Andrew Stubbs, an adjoining neighbor. In 1881 Mr. Davenport erected a fine new house on his premises, which is 18x34 in the main part, with a wing 18x22, two stories and a basement. Politically he is a republican.

ALBERT GLASSPOOLE, farmer, Paw Paw Grove, was born in the county of Norfolk, England, October 14, 1834. His father, who died when Albert was but ten years old, was commander in the Honorable East India Company service. Albert was educated first at the Yarmouth Grammar School, and then at a naval school in the city of Yarmouth. At sixteen years of age, as midshipman, he made his first voyage to Melbourne, Australia, in the government service, taking out one hundred and fifty distressed needle-women from the port of London. From Melbourne, with a cargo of smoked mutton-hams, he sailed to Hong-Kong, China, and thence, with teas and silks, returned to London. His second voyage was from the port of Yarmouth to Constantinople, with a general cargo, in his uncle's schooner, a pleasure trip described by the sailor phrase, "In everybody's mess and nobody's watch." In 1853 he was appointed to the Royal Mail Steam Packet service, as fifth officer,

and for nineteen months was stationed out at the Island of St. Thomas. During this stay the ship encountered one of the most fearful hurricanes on record. It was about this time that Gen. Santa Anna made his final escape from Mexico, and young Glasspoole thus describes his connection with that affair: "Having run into Havana on our return voyage word came to us through the Spanish pilot that we would find Gen. Santa Anna in the Bahama channel on board the Spanish man-of-war, and he would like to have us stop and take him to St. Thomas. Accordingly I was sent off in charge of a boat to get him. On going aboard the Spanish steamer I was introduced to the general's wife and told her I was ready to take them aboard. After taking the general and his wife aboard I returned with two boats for his money and his suites. The money was in silver bars; there were two good boat loads of that." While "lying to" at Greytown, on the isthmus, Glasspoole saw that whole town burned to ashes by American men-of-war. Failing in an attempt to bombard it down the men went ashore and fired it with tar and kerosene. Glasspoole assisted in taking the refugees off to an island. It may be of interest to mention that the last ship to which he was appointed in this service was the Trent, afterward so noted in the Mason and Slidell case. Mr. Glasspoole received a very complimentary letter from the court of directors, dated May 10, 1856. We quote just enough to indicate its character: "Conveying expression of their satisfaction at the praiseworthy conduct displayed by you on the night of the 30th ult., and also at the high character given you by Capt. Abbott." Shortly after receiving this letter, as a further mark of esteem, he was honored with a very gratifying promotion. In 1857 Mr. Glasspoole emigrated to America. At Batavia, Illinois, he was married to Miss Laura Carr, daughter of Capt. Carr, of the U. S. Merchant service. His first years of western farming were spent on rented land in Kane county. Here his change from sailor life was attended with some curious and somewhat expensive experience. He was wont to say, "Yes, I am naturalized, at a cost of \$2,000." About 1866 he came to Willow Creek township and bought 160 acres. He has a good farm all paid for. He has one son, who has crossed the Atlantic twice and is now a student at East Paw Paw; also a brother is colonel in the Queen's service.

CHRISTOPHER VANDEVENTER, farmer, Lee, son of John and Mary (Boyer) Vandeventer, was born in Erie county, New York, in 1815. His grandfather Vandeventer was captain of a company of rangers in the revolution, which did duty as scouts for Gen. Washington. His grandfather Boyer was a soldier in the same war. Both these fought at the Cowpens and in several other battles. His father served on the frontier in the war of 1812, invaded Canada under Gen. Van Rensselaer,



and helped storm and capture the British fort at Queenstown, October 13, that year. The subject of this sketch was raised a farmer, but took up the carpenter and joiner trade, and followed it most of the time during his early life. On September 6, 1838, he was married, in Michigan, to Miss Miranda Salisbury, who was the mother of four children: Irwin (dead) and Edwin (twins), William and Christopher, and died in 1845. His second marriage was with Mrs. Rozillow Low, June 6, 1846. The children by this union were Mary E. (dead), Martha (dead), Ellen J., Eber R. (dead), Isabell, James and John (dead). This wife died September 27, 1858, and he married again, December 1, same year, Mrs. Ann Baker. By her first marriage she had ten children; by the last, one, Mary Alice. Her death occurred January 24, 1874. Mr. Vandeventer's fourth marriage was to Mrs. Elizabeth Braithwaite, on February 11, 1875. By the first husband she was the mother of the following children: Maria Elizabeth, Sarah Ella, Caroline (dead), Laura, Emily, Ida, Ada, and Louis P. Mr. Vandeventer has been commissioner of highways of Willow Creek township, and school director in his district eleven years. As an Odd-Fellow he belongs to Spartan Lodge, No. 272, at East Paw Paw, and to Paw Paw Encampment, No. 52. He has passed all the chairs in the lodge, and in politics is a democrat. His farm of 182 acres, valued at \$11,000, contains never-failing wells and springs, and is the best watered farm in the country. He has an orchard of choice fruit unequalled in this region. His sons, William and Christopher, volunteered and served for three months at the beginning of the war, and fought at the battle of Bull Run, July 21, 1861. The latter reënlisted for three years, and served his full time. Irwin entered the service in the fall of 1861, for three years, and was color-bearer of his regiment; he fought at Forts Henry and Donelson, and at Shiloh, where he was taken prisoner by the rebels and confined until the following June, when he was released and died the same month of typhoid fever, at Huntsville, Alabama. Eber enlisted in the regular army just after the war, and went to Fort Scott, and from thence to Fort Stanton, New Mexico, where he died.

JAMES C. HOWLETT, farmer and stock raiser, Paw Paw Grove, son of Horatio G. and Amanda M. (Canfield) Howlett, was born in Onondaga county, New York, March 22, 1837. When six months old he came with his father to Chicago, then to Dixon, and finally, in 1839, to his present home at Allen's Grove. He was well prepared with a practical education for the business of life. His earlier instruction was obtained in the log cabin schools of the neighborhood. His first term was in one part of the Shoudy treble log house, and his teacher was a Miss Nettleton. His next preceptress was Laura Brace. At a

later date he was a pupil of Bobby Walker, who had a school near the old Robinson place. This knight of the ferule was excellent both as a scholar and teacher, and was fond of quoting Bobby Burns, which he had at his tongue's command. Mr. Howlett finished his studies at the Lee Center and South Side academies. In 1860 he went to the Rocky Mountains. He taught three terms of school in Missouri, and was in that state at the breaking out of the war. In June, 1861, he enlisted in a company which was recruiting there, and was appointed orderly sergeant; but not being mustered into the service, and suspense and inactivity ensuing, he came home, driving through with a herd of cattle, and barely escaped being taken by guerrillas. This company was afterward accepted and cut to pieces at Wilson's creek, where two-thirds of the men were killed. Before his departure from Missouri he spent an evening with Gen. Price, and on his arrival at Quincy saw the first rebel flag captured in that state. On August 6, 1862, Mr. Howlett volunteered in Co. K, 75th Ill. Inf., and served till the close of the war. He fought at Perrysville, and his regiment was engaged at Stone River, Chickamauga, Rocky Face Ridge, Resaca, and elsewhere on the Atlanta campaign, and the subsequent service in Tennessee against Hood, ending in the battles of Franklin and Nashville. The last half of his term was served in the assistant adjutant-general's office, where he had charge of the clerical force. He was one of thirty who competed for the position; all having sent specimens of penmanship, he was selected for the detail. One of his duties was to go through the brigade every evening and obtain a list of the casualties, in which duty he was often very much exposed. On his return home he went to Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and was with his brother several months in the post-office. His marriage to Sarah Jane, daughter of James Fowler, of Shabbona, occurred April 13, 1867. To these parents five children have been born, namely, Mary, George G., Amanda B., Wilbur and Florence C. Mr. Howlett is a republican, and takes a lively interest in the success of his party, and contributes his personal influence, which is by no means limited, to keep it in power. For many years he has been a member of the republican central committee for Willow Creek township. He has filled the office of supervisor five terms, town clerk four, collector one, and is present incumbent of the office first named. He is well known as an experienced and efficient school teacher.

HORATIO G. HOWLETT, retired, Paw Paw Grove, is the son of Parley and Phebe (Robbins) Howlett. He was born in Onondaga, Onondaga county, New York, August 31, 1809. His father was a native of Vermont, and one of the earliest settlers in Onondaga county. His mother was born in Connecticut. Mr. Howlett enjoyed good oppor-

tunities for securing an education, and did not let them pass unimproved. He took a course of studies at the Onondaga and Homer academies, and is now one of the five only living ones who were fellow students at the latter institution when he was there. In his twenty-first year he and a brother engaged in salt manufacture at Geddes; at the end of a year they sold out and went to merchandising for another year. On his twenty-first birthday Mr. Howlett was united in marriage with Amanda Malvina Canfield, of Syracuse, with whom he lived in great happiness until August 3, 1850, when she was taken from him by death. Not long after his marriage he settled on a farm, which he sold when he came west in 1832. In January of that year he emigrated; he started for Chicago, and had his goods shipped there by way of the lakes, but on reaching Niles, Michigan, was taken sick and compelled to remain at that place till his resources were exhausted by exorbitant charges. His parents were wealthy and he could have obtained assistance from them by making known his condition, but he disdained to do this, and had his effects sent back to Niles. Here he was appointed deputy sheriff on his recovery, and filled this office and remained in the town three years. In 1835 he came to Chicago and opened a meat market, near the spot where the Tremont House now stands. At that time there was but one white woman in the place. He got control of all the butchering business and secured a driving trade, Indian and emigrant patronage being very large. George Smith, since one of the heaviest bankers in the city, and Alexander Mitchell, the railroad magnate, of Wisconsin, had a little brokers' office, and Mr. Howlett deposited with Mitchell every night his wildcat funds, in which business was then mainly transacted. The first day his receipts were \$60, the second day \$400, and at the end of thirty days \$3,000. All that he ever got back into his hands was the small sum of \$60. In the autumn of 1837 he left Chicago and came to Dixon, where he resided two years. A few log cabins and two frame buildings stood at that date in the town. In 1839 he settled at Allen's Grove, where he has had his home until the present time. He purchased a claim of 160 acres on Sec. 36, for \$1,000. The land was not surveyed into sections till two or three years afterward. Mr. Howlett boarded the surveying party when the work was done in this neighborhood. Aside from his interests in farming since he came here, he has been an active and influential business man. At one time in the early history of the county he kept hotel in Dixon; about 1854 he went to merchandising in Paw Paw, in company with A. B. Sears, who decamped, leaving him to pay the heavy debts of the firm; he was justice of the peace ten years and constable four. While trading in Paw Paw his children were living in the east, attending school; from the time his eldest

daughter returned to keep house for him he has since had at least one of them with him. He was the parent of nine children, four of whom died in infancy. George Marvin, agent for the Etna Life Insurance Company, lives at Fort Dodge, Iowa; James C. resides on the homestead; Harriet Amanda is the wife of O. J. Le Moin and lives in Michigan; Cornelia Caroline married Cornelius Vosburg, of Pennsylvania, and Frances Maria, relict of Samuel Foresman, is now Mrs. George Platt, of Kansas. The first two years that Mr. Howlett lived here he cast the only whig vote in the precinct, and for his devotion to his principles, the democrats, when speaking of his politics, designated him by an inodorous adjective. The polls were held alternately at Malugin's Grove and Paw Paw Grove.

S. W. WEEKS, hardware merchant, Lee, was born in Kendall county, Illinois, in 1852. His parents, Wier and Susan (Sunde) Weeks, emigrated from Norway in 1846, and settled at Big Grove, Kendall county, where both are still living. He was engaged in general farm work until seventeen years of age, and then was attending school the next three years at Luther College, in Decorah, Iowa. From twenty to twenty-eight he taught in the common schools. In the spring of 1880 he became a partner with Christopher & Jorgens, of Lee, in the grain trade, and in December disposed of his interest and formed a partnership with O. J. Heng, under the firm name of Weeks & Heng. They purchased the hardware store of Stephens & Prestegard, and began trading just at the close of the year. Mr. Weeks was married October 29, 1878, to Miss Trudy J. Rogde, of Willow Creek township. She was the daughter of Jacob and Elsa Rogde. They have one child, Elsa Sophia, born in 1879. Mr. Weeks is a republican, and he and his wife are members of the Norwegian Lutheran church.

WILLIAM H. BRYANT, postmaster and implement dealer, Lee, was born in Wyoming township in 1847. His parents were Obed W. and Sarah (Lindsey) Bryant, with whom he lived at home on the farm until he was sixteen, when he went to Hillsdale College, Michigan, and devoted himself to study four years. The following year he spent in Sedalia, Missouri; returning to Illinois, he was engaged in 1869 in farming, and in 1870 went to Idaho and Oregon. In these places he passed a year sight-seeing and prospecting in the mines. In 1871 he returned home and farmed until the autumn of 1872, when he went into a general store at Meriden, La Salle county, and on March 30, 1874, associated himself in partnership with R. A. White, of Lee, buying out the interest of Henry Moore. They did a general merchandising business, and extended it to include agricultural implements. After three months Mr. White retired, and was succeeded as postmaster by Mr. Bryant, who also continued the trade three years alone. At the



end of that time he sold his stock of goods, and has since confined his business to the post-office and the sale of farming implements and machinery. Mr. Bryant was united in marriage with Miss Ada M. Haish September 15, 1881. She is a communicant in the Methodist church. He was collector of Willow Creek township in 1877, and in 1879 he was the republican nominee for county treasurer against Isaac Edwards, of Amboy, but failed of election by sixty-four votes. He is an Odd-Fellow, and was a charter member of Fidelity Lodge, No. 635, I.O.O.F., which was organized in Lee, and in 1880 removed to Steward. Mr. Bryant is a whole-souled man, of pleasing manners, gentlemanly and accomodating.

OLE G. JELLE, farmer, Lee, fifth in a family of seven children by Gonder and Ayer (Jorgendatter) Jelle, was born in Norway, September 13, 1850. He attended the common schools of his country and worked as a laborer until his emigration in 1871. Two of his brothers arrived later, Atlaak and Ole, the youngest in the family. He settled in this township, and has made his home here until now. April 24, 1881, he was married to Mrs. Amelia Prestegard, widow of George Prestegard, and daughter of Lars Oleson. She was married the first time February 2, 1876, and her husband died May 30, leaving two children: Georgiana, born November 14, 1876, and Isabella Lida, November 21, 1878. Mr. and Mrs. Jelle both belong to the Norwegian Lutheran church.

EDWIN EDWARDS, farmer, Lee, son of Einner and Christina (Einner-son) Edwards, was born in Norway in 1828. He was in the military service of Norway seven years; he was drafted when twenty-one, and drilled and did garrison duty. A part of the time he was permitted to be at home. When in camp he at first received six cents per day, but toward the close of his service got ten cents, and the last year his wages were increased to twelve cents. When Amund Hilleson emigrated to this country, in 1851, Mr. Edwards took his place with the employer, Thurstan Hoagland, and worked for him two years as \$10 per year. After that, until he came over himself, he worked independently as a laborer. In 1858 he embarked for America in a sailing vessel in command of captain Bunaway, and was two months in crossing the ocean. He settled in Bradford township, where he was married in the autumn, soon after his arrival, to Miss Johanna Ritter, who was born in 1832. She took passage with him from Norway. Mr. Edwards, like most of his countrymen, is a good example of what industry, steady habits and careful management will do in this free land of equal privileges. When he came here he had but \$14 to begin with, but he had learned not to shirk hard work, and he laid hold at once of the tools of labor with a fixed resolution to make a respectable home, and whoever visits his place cannot fail to mark how completely he has succeeded.

He has an intelligent family growing up around him to receive from his indulgent care the comforts and benefits which he has marshaled around him. In the spring of 1862 he came to this township and bought eighty acres of land, the N.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of N.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 11. He has since added 120 more, and values the whole at \$10,000. Both himself and wife are members of the Norwegian Lutheran church, and he is one of the trustees. Their children are Gabriel Hanson, Nellie Henrietta (now Mrs. Barney Jacobson), Julia, Edwin, John Michael, Lena, Anne, Edwardena, and Swan Arnoldos. Mr. Edwards is a republican in politics.

WILLIAM GROVE, farmer, Lee, son of William and Cornelia (Clay) Grove, was born in Frederick county, Maryland, in 1834. His father was a soldier in the last war with Great Britain. In 1837 his father settled in Knox county, Ohio, and there his mother died when he was twelve years old. Shortly afterward the family removed to Seneca county, and some years subsequently to Fulton county, where they lived ten years. In 1863 they left Ohio and came to Willow Creek township, and bought from 'Squire Ira Durin the farm on which Mr. Grove is now living. It is the N.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 21, and is valued at \$8,000. Here the senior Grove died May 3, 1872. The subject of this sketch was married February 17, 1861, to Miss Amanda Gee, daughter of Henry and Eliza (Williams) Gee. She was born May 20, 1844. Mr. Grove enlisted in December 1863, in company H, 100th Ohio Vols., and was attached to the first brigade, third division, 23d army corps. He served on the Atlanta campaign and was engaged in a good deal of small fighting; he returned to Tennessee under Thomas to resist Hood's invasion, and fought at the battles of Franklin and Nashville. Before this, late in the autumn of 1863, he marched to Knoxville, to the relief of Burnside. After the destruction of Hood's army in Tennessee he went with his corps to North Carolina and helped to finish up the rebellion. He was discharged at Toledo, Ohio, in July 1865. Mr. Grove is a republican. His nine children are all living, and are named as follows: Emma C., Mary C., Nora L., Ada L., Ella C., George P., John H., Nellie Frances, and Clyde Arthur.

LEWIS P. BOYD, farmer, Lee, third son of Peter and Sarah (Olson) Boyd, was born in Norway, December 7, 1838. He emigrated to America in 1857, and stayed the first summer in Kendall and Bureau counties. Next year he went to Iowa, where he remained till the autumn of 1859, and then went to Mississippi for some months. Coming back to Iowa the following spring, he left there in June for Kendall county, Illinois, and there enlisted in July in Co. D, 36 Ill. Inf. He campaigned in Missouri, fought at Pea Ridge, marched from there to Cape Girardeau and Pittsburgh Landing, and reached Corinth just as the rebels had evacuated the town. The following summer he was in

Mississippi, campaigning; he was taken from Ryan by boat and rail to Cincinnati when Bragg marched to the Ohio; from there he fell down to Louisville by boat, joined in Buell's pursuit, and fought at Perryville. Subsequently he was in the engagements at Stone River, Chickamauga and Missionary Ridge; marched to Knoxville; campaigned some the following winter in the Cumberland mountains; went on the Atlanta campaign; fought at Buzzard's Roost, Resaca, and Lost Mountain, and was wounded June 18, being shot through both thighs. He lay in the general field hospital several days, then was sent back to Chattanooga, then to Nashville, next to Jeffersonville, and from thence to Camp Butler, Springfield. At Jeffersonville, through the carelessness of surgeons and nurses, gangrene got into his wound and he was nearly sacrificed to bad and harsh treatment. His time expired four months before he was discharged from the hospital, in January 1865. He could not abandon his crutches for a long while; still has to use a cane sometimes, and draws a pension from the government. In 1867 he began farming on his own land; in 1870 he went to his present home of eighty acres, which is worth \$4,800. In 1871 he was married to Miss Sophia Johnson. Their children are Sarah Louisa, Isabel Melinda, Anna Maria, Olena Martinda, Peter Oly and Engerborg. Both parents are members of the Norwegian Lutheran church, and Mr. Boyd is a republican. He has been constable four years, collector three years, and is now road commissioner and school trustee.

JOHN YETTER, steward, is one of the most prominent citizens of Willow Creek, and a leading farmer and stock raiser. He is the only living son of John G. and Katrina (Meyer) Yetter, and was born in Germany in 1835, where he was reared to farming, and received a good common school education. In the spring of 1854 Mr. Yetter emigrated to this country, and stopped nine months in New York, where he was joined by the rest of the family,—two parents, four brothers, and seven sisters. They all came to Putnam county, Illinois, and engaged in farming there on rented land. In the fall of 1859 Mr. Yetter came to this township and purchased 160 acres where his house stands, being the S.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of N.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  and the N.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of S.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 5. His relations soon followed him here, except a sister, who resided in the West but one summer and now lives in New York, and his mother, who died in 1857. His father has since lived with him. He was married in the autumn of 1857, to Miss Lena Schoenholz, by whom he has a large and interesting family of nine children: John P., Carl T., Lena E., Mary M., George, Jacob, Fred, Franklin B. and Julia May. Mr. Yetter and his wife and the two eldest daughters are members of the German Evangelical or Zion church, and he is a republican. Of public offices, he has held that of supervisor eight years, and of road commis-



sioner three. He owns 312 acres of land, 192 where he lives, and 120 just over the line in Alto township, which is improved with valuable buildings: large, perfect and imposing willow hedges, and is stocked completely with the best patterns of farm implements and machinery; but it is as a stock farm that it is most important, for Mr. Yetter, during some years, has made the breeding of thoroughbred cattle a special feature of his business. His horses are of high grade, and all his animals give evidence of his care and skill in this favorite branch of industry which he has chosen. His farm is valued at \$20,000. No man in this section of country is more widely and favorably known than Mr. Yetter, and the portrait which is given of him in this work, we feel sure, will give great satisfaction to his numerous friends.

GEORGE L. ERBES, farmer, Lee, oldest child of George and Elizabeth (Grossardt) Erbes, was born at Knox Grove, in this county, April 28, 1855. He has always worked at farming and attended the English schools. He was married May 23, 1876, to Miss Mary E. Hackmann, who was born May 2, 1855, in Peru, Illinois. Her father, William Hackmann, came to America in 1849 a single man; in 1850 he returned to the old country and was married to Henrietta Klute. The couple then came and settled in Peru. Mr. and Mrs. Erbes have had two children, George William, born October 9, 1877, died November 7, 1879; and Elizabeth Sophia, born April 9, 1880. They both belong to the German Lutheran society, which worships at the Byrd school-house. Mr. Erbes is a republican.

GEORGE ERBES, farmer, Lee, eldest son of George and Philopena (Schwabenland) Erbes, was born in Germany in 1824. He was a farm laborer in the old country. In 1853 he emigrated to America and settled at once in Peoria county, Illinois, where he lived four years, the first three working as a hand, and the next year renting land. His marriage with Miss Elizabeth Grossardt, who was born also in Germany in 1826, and came to this country in 1853, was in 1855. In 1857 Mr. Erbes moved to Lee county, and lived three years at Knox Grove. In 1860 he brought his family to Willow Creek, and bought the E.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of S.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 11. He began here with very small means, as he himself says, "a poor man, almost without property," but with true German pluck and industry he struggled along, aided by his equally persevering wife, until they now have a home of 240 acres, valued at \$12,000. He subsequently bought the W.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of N.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 14, and the N.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of S.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 12. They have raised four children and have one dead: George L., who married Miss Mary Hackmann, Fred W., William D., Kate E., wife of John Greene, and John P. (dead). The whole family belongs to the German Lutheran church. Mr. Erbes is a republican and an esteemed citizen.



OLE W. OLESON, farmer, Lee. In 1847 his father, Lars Oleson, emigrated from Norway to Bradford township in this county. He was a carpenter in his native country, and soon after his arrival obtained employment as a workman in the Grand Detour plow-works, and was there with Col. L. Andrews four years. While working in that place he saved enough money to buy forty acres of land in Bradford township in partnership with Lars Hilleson. On quitting the plow factory he bought more land, and finally had 120 acres, which he improved. He was married in that township in 1848, to Isabel Hilleson, and the first child born to them was the subject of this notice, in the same year. Besides Ole they had three others, Holden, Amelia, now Mrs. Ole G. Jelle, and Betsy, wife of Ole Rogde. In the spring of 1863 the father moved with his family to Willow Creek and settled on Sec. 10, where he still lives. He owned here at one time 480 acres, but sold 160 and divided the remainder among his four children, all of whom reside in this township. Ole was married in February 1868, to Miss Augusta Oleson, who was born in Norway October 4, 1849. Her mother died when she was eleven years old, and two years later she emigrated with her father, who died five years afterward. The three children of these parents are a son and two daughters, Isabel Florence, Lewis, and Gure. Mr. Oleson and his wife belong to the Norwegian Lutheran church. He owns the S.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 10, valued at \$8,000.

AMUND HILLESON, farmer, Lee. The first Norwegian settler in Willow Creek township was Amund Hilleson, second son of Hilla and Emaline (Emmonson) Helge, born in South Bergen stift (state), Norway, June 20, 1821. His father died when he was six years old, and his mother being left in destitute circumstances with six children, the latter were bound out according to the custom of that country in regard to the poor, that is, each farmer takes one in his turn for a length of time corresponding to the amount of property he owns; while sometimes the poor are bid off at auction, the keepers being paid for their care and trouble. Mr. Hilleson was provided for according to the former method. When sixteen years old he was able to take care of himself, and hired out the first year for \$5 and his clothing, the second year for \$7 and clothing, and so on, gradually but very slowly increasing until he had worked thirteen years, the last two or three years receiving as high as \$10 and a little clothing per year. Four years before he had enough money saved to emigrate he began to turn his thoughts wistfully toward America, and from that time worked with the sole object of coming at the earliest time he could be ready. That time arrived in 1851, and he came directly to Sublette township, where his brother-in-law, Lars L. Risetter, was living, and worked the first year in the employ of Thomas Fessenden through haying and harvest for \$11 per

month. In 1852 he bought the N.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 15 in Willow Creek for \$1.25 per acre, and continued to hire out as a laborer until he had been here five years. In 1855 he began to improve his land, keeping house for himself two years, when, in 1857, he was married to Miss Emaline Larsen, who was born May 8, 1822, and emigrated to Sublette in 1855. They have had two children: Helge A., born in 1859, and Evaline, born September 6, 1863, and died December 16, 1866. The whole family belong to the Norwegian Lutheran church. Mr. Hilleson contributed liberally toward the erection of their house of worship, having given to that object some \$600. In 1875 he bought the N.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 15 for \$8,150. He has one of the best improved and most desirable farms in the country, which is valued at \$19,000. He is a republican and one of the solid men in means and character in Willow Creek township.

HENRY BARNHARD, farmer, Lee, son of Henry and Eva (Rinehart) Barnhard, was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, in 1808. In 1850 he came to Twin Groves, and after renting land one or two years from James Thompson, bought his farm, which he still owns and occupies, on Sec. 9. He entered the southwest quarter, and afterward sold the south half. His farm of eighty acres he values at \$5,200. He was married in Ohio about 1839, to Miss Harriet Kearns. They have had the following children: Matilda, wife of George Davenport, living in Kansas; Joseph (dead), Bigelow (dead), Emma, married Ebenezer Pettinger (dead); Henry, living at home; Melville (dead), and Mary, at home. Joseph enlisted in 1863, fought in two battles, and died at Vicksburg from disease. Bigelow enlisted first for one hundred days; he served his time and then enlisted for three years, and died in New York before reaching the seat of war. Mr. Barnhard is a republican.

ROBERT J. THOMPSON, farmer, Steward, was born in Hampshire county, West Virginia, March 2, 1847. He was the son of Robert and Zulemma (Taylor) Thompson, was reared a tiller of the soil, and received a common school education. His grandfather Thompson ran away from his home in Ireland and came to America before the revolution. He fought in the cause of the colonies, and after the war settled in Hampshire county, where the subject of this notice was born. His grandfather Taylor was an Englishman and fifer in the revolutionary war, and Mr. Thompson's mother has his life in her possession. In March, 1865, Mr. Thompson emigrated to this county and settled in Willow Creek, and in 1868 he was followed by his parents. His father had owned land in this township a good many years before he came here to live. Mr. Thompson owns 150 acres, left him by his father, valued at \$10,000. He is a democrat in politics, and is filling his fourth term as town clerk of Willow Creek. He was married

March 15, 1870, to Miss Eva L. Flagg, daughter of Lucius H. and Almira Flagg. She was born April 16, 1847. They have had four children to bless their home: Guy, George, Nora, and Eddie (dead).

JACOB B. FISHER, deceased, son of Thomas and Mary M. (Bookes) Fisher, was born in Muskingum county, Ohio, October 6, 1810. He lived at home on his father's farm until of age. In that day the custom among shoemakers was to go around the country and make the boots and shoes for families at their houses, the leather being furnished by those having the work done. The subject of this sketch took up the trade without serving an apprenticeship, and did the work for his father's family, the arrangement being that the other boys should do the out-door work. When he became twenty-one he went on a farm of eighty acres, mostly woodland, and was married January 28, 1833, to Miss Ruth Carleton, who was a daughter of Thomas and Hannah (Reese), and was born in Chester county, Pennsylvania, May 2, 1812. About 1836 they removed and settled near Columbus, on a farm of 120 acres of their own; and in 1853 they emigrated to Willow Creek township, where Mr. Fisher bought 400 acres of land. These parents had fourteen children: Martha E. (dead); Mary J., now Mrs. Patrick Daugherty; Thomas C., married Miss Avaïs Moore; Sarah Ann, wife of John Hickey; William (dead); Adeline, now Mrs. William H. Dow; Margaret, wife of Benjamin W. Noe; Hannah (dead); Lydia (dead); Adolphus, married Dolly Siglin; Phebe, wife of John C. Grove; Eleanor; Jacob, married Miss Elma J. White, and James, married Miss Estella Conklin. Mr. Fisher was a democrat in politics, held the office of supervisor and road commissioner, and was a member of the Presbyterian church from early life. Mrs. Fisher belonged to the same denomination, but as there was no Presbyterian church here she first joined the United Brethren and afterward the Methodist church, of which she is at present a member. She and Jacob and James live upon the old homestead, which contains 240 acres, valued at \$12,000. Mr. Fisher died January 9, 1857, much regretted. Mrs. Fisher was left with a very large family, but she proved equal to her heavy responsibilities in successfully rearing her children and managing the affairs of the farm.

WILLIAM DUNKELBERGER, farmer, Steward, was born in Pennsylvania in 1820. His parents, Solomon and Christiann (Harmon) Dunkelberger, had six sons and four daughters. His great-grandfather emigrated from Germany before the revolution, and two uncles named Dunkelberger served the country in the war of 1812. When the subject of this notice was eight years old his father removed with his family to New York, and he lived there, working as a farmer, until 1867. In that year he came to Willow Creek and bought the N.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$

and a part of lot 1, N.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of S.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$ , and lot 2, N.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of S.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 17. He has recently purchased thirty-two acres adjoining on the west, and now owns a pleasantly situated farm of 215 acres, which he values at \$15,000. In 1845 Mr. Dunkelberger was married to Miss Sarah Knedler, who was born in 1819. They have had seven children, as follows: Mary Sophia, wife of Henry J. Evers, Sarah Jane (dead), Caroline Elizabeth (dead), Phebe Adelia, Hannah Amelia (dead), Christiann Esther (dead), and Maria Catherine, now Mrs. August Mertons. Both parents are members of the German Evangelical church of Willow Creek, and Mr. Dunkelberger was the first class-leader in that society. He is a republican.

LOUIS P. SMITH, farmer, Lee, son of Charles and Mary (Clayton) Smith, was born in Pennsylvania in 1815. His father served in the last war with England, and was in some engagements. Mr. Smith left home when a young boy and went to live with a man named Isaac Smith, who was a miller, and from him he learned the same trade. He was employed at this twenty years. In 1834 he settled in Ohio, where in 1840 he married Miss Mary Spring, who died in 1844, leaving one child, Byard. He was married again January 24, 1847, to Miss Elizabeth Armstrong. By the second marriage six children have been born, as follows: William, Hannah Jane, Jacob, Daniel B. (in Colorado), George, and Louis Milton. In 1854 Mr. Smith removed to this township and selected a home at Twin Groves, and the following year came to live on his present farm, the S.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of S.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 9, which he now values at \$5,200. He has been road commissioner several terms, and is a democrat in politics. His son Byard enlisted in the 27th Ill. Vols. in 1862, but was shortly after transferred to another regiment and served his term of three years. He fought at Stone River and Lookout Mountain, served on the Atlanta campaign, the march to the sea, and the campaign of the Carolinas.

HILLA L. HILLESON, farmer, Lee, eldest son of Lars and Augusta (Swanson) Hilleson, was born in Sublette township, this county, May 15, 1857. His father, a brother to Ommon Hilleson, the first Norwegian settler in Lee county, emigrated from Norway in the same party with Lars L. Risetter, in 1847. A brother and sister accompanied him all the way to Lee Center. These were taken sick with cholera, and as everybody was afraid to go near, the care of them fell on him, and his whole time was divided between the work he had to do and his attentions to them. He had \$100 when he arrived, but this was soon spent for the sick, and at last both died. By proper precautions he was prevented from taking the disease. But the saddest office was the last, a painful one, when he had to give his own brother and sister sepulture without assistance. The next year, in partnership with his



brother Ommon, he rented ground and sowed seventy acres of oats and planted twenty acres of corn. The oats these two cradled, and the whole crop they hauled to Chicago after it was harvested. From this crop he got a little start, and after working with his brother a few years got a piece of land in Sublette. Finally he married, and lived in that township until about 1866, when he came to Willow Creek, where he now lives. Hilla, his son, was married March 15, 1877, to Miss Bertha E. Winterton, who was born in Bergen stift (state), Norway, in 1857. She emigrated with her parents Allen O. and Bertha P. (Espy) Winterton, in 1872. Mr. and Mrs. Hilleson belong to the Norwegian Lutheran church, and are the parents of two children: Augusta Louisa and Betsy Margaretta.

JACOB E. MILLER, farmer, Paw Paw Grove, was born in the town of Greenfield, Saratoga county, New York, in 1827. His father fought in the battle of Plattsburg, New York, in the last war with England, and married for his wife Maria De Grauph. Mr. Miller was raised on his father's farm, and at the proper age was apprenticed to the blacksmith trade, but he never worked at it after he finished his time. In 1848 he left his native state and settled at Bristol on Fox river, in Illinois, and lived there eight years, working by the month at farming. In August, 1854, he was married to Miss Jane S. Brown, of Bristol, who was born in 1827. In September, 1856, Mr. Miller moved with his family to his present home on the S.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 28, in which he owns eighty acres. In addition to this he has forty acres in Sec. 27, and both pieces are worth \$6,000. His building location is one of the most sightly in Willow Creek, and admits of an extended view of the country which is beautiful and picturesque in this region. Mr. and Mrs. Miller have reared four children: Charles L., Florence D., Frank G. and Thaddeus E. Charles was married in 1879, to Miss Celestia Griswold; Florence lives in Colorado, and Frank is a soldier in the 21st U. S. Inf., is orderly sergeant of his company, and superintendent of the post school on Vancouver's Island. The subject of this notice is independent in politics.

ANDREW STUBBS, farmer, Paw Paw Grove, was born in Hartford, Oxford county, Maine, March 11, 1820. His parents were Nathan and Sophia (Allen) Stubbs. Mr. Stubbs worked at farming till he was twenty years of age, and then went to New Bedford and shipped on board a whaling ship and was away during a four years' cruise. He sailed around Cape Good Hope, visited New Zealand, Australia, the Society Islands, and the Navigator Islands. His second voyage lasted nearly four years. He went around Cape Horn, visited the Chilian part of St. Carlos and Talcahuano, the Peruvian port of Callao, went to Lima, nine miles back of Callao in the interior, called at the

Sandwich Islands several times, and cruised in the Japan and the Okhotsk seas. The third and last voyage he made consumed over three years, and on this he shipped as second mate. He landed first at the Azores, next at the Cape Verde Islands, then at the Sandwich Islands, stopped at Sitka, spent one season along the coast of Kamtchatka and in the Arctic ocean as far north as the 72° of latitude and the ice barrier. Here he came near being devoured, at one time, by Esquimaux dogs. He sailed now to the Sandwich Islands and Hong Kong, then back again to those islands on his passage home around Cape Horn. His vessel touched at Pernambuco, and loaded with oranges. Between the second and third voyages he was at his home in Maine one year farming. He was on the water twelve years, and from the time he began following the sea until he quit was fourteen years. Mr. Stubbs was married in Massachusetts in 1850, to Miss Lucinda Green, from near Cleveland, Ohio. She was born in East Cleveland in May 1832. Her grandmother Gunn was one of the earliest, probably the second white woman, to settle on the western reserve. These parents have nine living children: Elizabeth H., now Mrs. George Hinckley; Charles A.; Benjamin, married to Miss Ella Shoudy; Almond L.; Mary, wife of Charles Davenport; Albert, Lillie May, Ida, and Wealthy. Shortly after the close of his last voyage, and in July 1853, Mr. Stubbs came to Lee county, and settled in Willow Creek township, where he has since lived. He was first on the Nettleton farm a short time, and then came to his own 120 acres on Sec. 27. He has been road commissioner, and is a republican. Mrs. Stubbs belongs to the United Brethren church.

NATHANIEL C. ALLEN, farmer, Paw Paw Grove, born in Hartford, Oxford county, Maine, in 1822, was the son of Nathaniel and Polly (Tinkham) Allen. His mother was descended from Ephraim Tinkham, who came over in the Mayflower. The descendants had in their possession until recent years a kettle which their ancestor brought with him, and which was used until the bottom wore through. Mr. Allen pursued farming and lumbering as his occupation while in Maine, and in 1845 his father's family came to this township, and he followed the next year. He still occupies the land which he then entered — a quarter of a section, worth now \$8,000. In the winter of 1848-9 he went to Minnesota, and worked at lumbering. In the spring he went down to St. Louis with a raft of logs. This was the cholera year, and one of the raftsmen died on the float. The following winter he went to Mississippi to cut cord-wood, but having cut his leg badly, and being taken with chills and fever, he returned in February. In 1861 he was married to Miss Emaline Johnson, of Viola township, who came with her parents from Vermont, and settled there

about 1849 or 1850. They have four sons and three daughters: Cora, Nettie, Rufus, Aranda, Clarendon, Adelbert, and Blanche. These are all living, and Cora is the wife of Terry Stevens, of Shabbona. Mr. and Mrs. Allen are members of the United Brethren church, and he is a republican. In February, 1865, Mr. Allen enlisted in Co. I, 15th Ill. Inf. He rendezvoused at Camp Fry, Chicago; went thence to New York, and from there to North Carolina, joining his command at Raleigh. He marched to Washington City, participated in the Grand Review on May 24, then was transferred to Louisville and St. Louis, and was furloughed at the latter place. He rejoined his command at Fort Leavenworth, where he was mustered out on September 17, 1865. Mr. Allen has been twice almost fatally injured. The first time he was run over by a runaway team, and had his facial bones broken. The next time he was knocked down and terribly gored by an infuriated bull. Mr. Allen held to the rope by which he was leading him, while the animal rolled him about on the ground, and when in reach of a tree wound it around and tied it, and then rolled away. It was supposed each time that he could not live.

NOAH W. DAVENPORT, farmer, Paw Paw Grove, was born in Harpersfield, Delaware county, New York, in 1823, and was the eldest child in the family. His mother, whose maiden name was Pamelia Dayton, was a native of Weathersfield, Connecticut. His father, Erastus Davenport, was born in Columbia county, New York. His grandfather Davenport was a revolutionary soldier. The subject of this notice traces his lineage in this country from the Rev. John Davenport, a co-founder of New Haven. In his "History of the United States" McCabe thus refers to him: "In the year of the Pequod war (1637) John Davenport, a celebrated clergyman of London, and Theophilus Eaton, a merchant of wealth, and a number of their associates, who had been exiled from England for their religious opinions, reached Boston. They were warmly welcomed, and were urged to stay in the Bay colony; but the theological disputes were so high there that they preferred to go into the wilderness and found a settlement where they could be at peace. Eaton, with a few men, was sent to explore the region west of the Connecticut, which had been discovered by the pursuers of the Pequods. He examined the coast of Long Island Sound, and spent the winter at a place which he selected as a settlement. In April, 1638, Davenport and the rest of the company sailed from Boston, and established a settlement on the spot chosen by Eaton." In the campaign against the Indians, which resulted in the total destruction of the Pequod nation, Capt. Davenport acted a conspicuous part. When their fort on the Thames was assaulted and taken he commanded one-half of the assailing party, and Capt. John Mason, who

was in command of the whole expedition, directed personally the movements of the other half. Mr. Davenport received a good English education, and in 1846 commenced reading to prepare himself for the practice of medicine. In 1848 and 1849 he attended lectures at the Albany Medical College, of New York, and in 1850 located in Lorraine county, Ohio. Subsequently he settled in Van Wert county, where his health failed, and then he came to Lee county, Illinois, remaining one year. In January, 1874, he went to Washington Territory, living there two years. In 1876 he returned to the east, and finally settled down on a farm in Willow Creek township. In the summer of the present year (1881) he took a foreign tour. Dr. Davenport has had an eventful, as it is an interesting, history, but his native modesty will not permit us to detail it in full. He was descended from old-line whig stock, and is naturally a republican.

GEORGE A. BRITTAIN, farmer, Paw Paw Grove, was the second son of William and Elizabeth (Oman) Brittain, and was born in Lycoming county, Pennsylvania, in 1848. His paternal ancestors were residents of New Jersey, and those on his mother's side belonged to Pennsylvania. His parents reared a large family; their twelve children were named as follows: Margaret, Susannah, Sarah, Effie (dead), Hester Miranda, Amelia, Mary, Rebecca, John, George, William Wesley, Oman Peter (dead). John was a soldier in the 156th Ill. Vols., and served nearly a year. In 1855 Mr. Brittain's parents came to Lee county and rented land ten years. In 1865 his father bought the farm where our subject now resides, the S.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of N.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 28. On this place the former died in 1878, at the age of seventy-nine years. Mr. Brittain has increased the homestead which he received from his father, by the addition of the S.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of N.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 28, making 120 acres valued at \$6,000. He was married in 1876, to Miss Marietta Hall, who is the daughter of Reuben Hall, and was born December 22, 1859. Their children are Oman R., born August 15, 1878; and Martha, September 9, 1880. Mr. Brittain has been constable and collector, belongs to the Methodist Episcopal church, and is a republican. Mrs. Brittain is a member of the United Brethren church.

SARDIS VOSBURGH, farmer, Lee, son of Charles and Millicent (Vanluvanee) Vosburgh, was born in Luzerne county, Pennsylvania, July 8, 1836. His life-long occupation has been that of a farmer. In 1856 he came to De Kalb county, and settled at Shabbona, living there till 1867. The year before he had purchased of his present farm the S.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 23. He has since bought eighty acres adjoining in Sec. 26, making a total of 240 acres of very desirable land, valued at \$12,000. On March 27, 1867, he removed from Shabbona to this homestead. His marriage with Miss Ellen Atherton, who was born in 1835, took



place on March 24, 1864. They have three intelligent children: William, born July 10, 1867; Fannie, December 22, 1868; and Nellie, October 31, 1870. Mrs. Vosburgh is a communicant in the Baptist church. Mr. Vosburgh has been road commissioner six years, and is a republican in politics. The present year (1881) he put up a handsome store building in Lee, the first brick structure ever erected in that village. Mr. Vosburgh is one of the most respected men in Willow Creek.

THOMAS NELSON, farmer and teacher, Lee, son of Nels and Guro Samson, was born in Hardanger, Norway, September 26, 1843. His youth from six to fourteen was spent in the district schools of the country; afterward he attended Voss higher school for teachers at Vossvangen, two years. He taught one year, beginning in the spring of 1861, and the following spring emigrated to America, and was engaged as a teacher in the Norwegian select school in Chicago. He taught till the autumn of 1864, and on November 1 enlisted for two years in the navy. His whole service was on the Mississippi transport Volunteer. He was retained but half his time, and was mustered out November 3, 1865. On his return to civil life he took one term of instruction at the Paxton University, in Ford county, Illinois, and then taught again in Chicago until the autumn of 1866. Having been previously engaged to teach in the Norwegian Lutheran congregation in Willow Creek, he came here that fall. Until 1870 he was teaching and clerking; in that year he bought his present farm of forty acres; since that date he has taught both English and Norwegian schools, and clerked and farmed. His homestead is valued at \$2,000. In the autumn of 1868 he returned to Norway, and on April 2, 1869, took in marriage Miss Bertha Swassand. They embarked the same season for America. The fruits of this union have been three children: Nels William, Carrie Louise, and Andrew. These parents are members of the Norwegian Lutheran church, and Mr. Nelson is a republican. In 1880 he was commissioned notary public, and appointed census enumerator for Willow Creek township. In the spring of 1881 he was elected to the office of justice of the peace.

CALIB M. BACON, farmer, Lee, eldest son of Daniel H. and Mary (Zuber) Bacon, was born in Pennsylvania in 1826. From his father's farm he went at the age of nineteen to New Bedford, Massachusetts, and engaged to go on shipboard. His first voyage was through the Indian ocean, by way of Australia and New Zealand, to Kamtchatka, thence to the Sandwich Islands, and from there home via Cape Horn. This occupied twenty-two and a half months. From 1847 to 1849 he was on a voyage in the Indian ocean, visiting Australia, island of Java, strait of Sunda, thence home by way of Cape of Good Hope, touching,

on the passage back, at St. Helena. In October, 1849, he sailed for the Pacific ocean and Polar sea, making ports on the west coast of South America and at the Sandwich and other islands. This voyage lasted thirty-one months. On his subsequent ones he went out and returned by the way of Cape Horn. He shipped again for the Pacific and Arctic oceans in October 1852, and visited the Sandwich and other islands and Hong Kong, and was absent twenty-nine months. In the autumn of 1855 he sailed over nearly the same route on his fifth and last voyage, which he brought to an end in the spring of 1858, when his health broke down and he took a discharge from the ship at the Sandwich Islands, and came home from there as a passenger. The whole of his sea-faring life was spent in the whale-fishery. In the fall of 1858 he came to Willow Creek township and made permanent settlement on the S.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 14, where he has lived until the present time. He had been twice to Illinois before, having come on visits between his voyages. His first marriage was with Miss Sarah Pettibone, of New York city, who survived her nuptials only five months. In 1862 he was married again, to Miss Sarah Brittain, who was born in 1833, and was the daughter of William Brittain. Five children have been born to them: Rhoda, Daniel, Elizabeth (dead), Mary, and Homer. When Mr. Bacon first came to the township he purchased 240 acres of land, afterward he added 80 more, but now has 300, handsomely cultivated, improved with substantial buildings, and valued at \$15,000. He is a Congregationalist, but the society to which he belonged, and which assisted in building the Twin Groves Methodist church, has ceased, by reason of removals, to exist. He has been road commissioner, town clerk twice by appointment, assessor two years, and constable and collector. He is an independent republican, and a public spirited and prominent citizen.

LARS LARSEN RISSETTER, retired farmer, Lee, was born in Hardanger, Bergens stift (state), Norway, March 30, 1826. He was the youngest son of Lars Larsen and Anna (Peterson) Risetter, and was reared to farming, and received a common school education. In the middle of March, 1847, he left his home in Norway to take passage for America; he was delayed a month in the city of Bergen, was a month crossing the ocean, and still another month in reaching Chicago. He proceeded from New York by the Hudson river to Albany, from thence by rail to Buffalo, and the remainder of the way by the lakes. Ommen Hilleson, the first Norwegian settler in Lee county, had brothers and sisters in the party with which Mr. Risetter came, and he was to meet them in Chicago and transport them to Lee Center, but failed to reach there before they got away, although they were detained awhile in the place. "Big Nels," the most prominent Norwegian in the Fox river

colony, conveyed them as far as his home, and there they hired a man and his team to bring them to Lee Center, where they arrived on June 20. Mr. Risetter was taken with fever and ague and was ill all summer, and not able to work before December. He arrived at Lee Center sick, penniless, and unable to make himself understood and his wants known to the strangers among whom he was cast, for Ommon Hilleson was still in Chicago, or between the two places. To say the least, this was a painful situation, and Mr. Risetter will never forget it. But the cloud lifted somewhat and the sun shone with a brighter effulgence when Hilleson returned, for then was the meeting of old-time friends and near relations after long years of tedious separation and waiting. In the autumn he was married to Miss Gertrude Hilleson, who had taken passage with him from Norway, and immediately they hired out in Sublette, to Thomas Fessenden, for \$15 per month for the labor of both. They continued so employed one year, and until they had saved enough to buy 80 acres of land from the government, when they began farming on their own account. They reared a little log cabin, in which they dwelt with much comfort until 1856, when they sold out and in February moved to Willow Creek. It should be recognized in this place that they were the first family of Norwegian settlers in Sublette township and the second in this. Mr. Risetter bought the S.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 15 at the price at which the government sold public land, \$1.25 per acre, but was not forehanded enough to pay for it: so Col. Dement advanced the money at ten per cent interest, and held it in his name three years, when Mr. Risetter became the virtual owner. He and his wife labored with severe industry, and from this time dates a period of signal financial success in their history. At one time they owned 920 acres of valuable land in a body, besides tracts in various other places, but they have sold off 280 acres, and the rest is occupied by their children. Both belong to the Lutheran church, and Mr. Risetter is a republican. They have had seven children: Anna, Lewis, Holden, Thomas (dead), and three infants (dead). Anna is the wife of A. C. Olson, minister and farmer, and lives in Kankakee county, this state; Lewis married Miss Melinda Johnson, and lives on the old homestead, and Holden, who was married November 11, 1875, to Miss Julia Christopher, lives on the N.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 21. Holden's three children are Louisa, Betsy, and Lewis. The Risetters are among the most substantial, influential and best respected people in this part of the county.

HENRY STEVENS, farmer, Compton, was born in Wayne county, Pennsylvania, in 1826. He was the eldest son of Nicholas and Ann (Ketterson) Stevens, and was reared a farmer by his parents. In the autumn of 1854 he came to Willow Creek and bought fifty-nine acres: returning to Pennsylvania he remained there that winter, and in the

following spring came back, and at once set about improving his land. He has added to his original purchase until he now owns 126 acres of choice farming land, estimated to be worth \$6,000. In politics he adheres to the principles of the republican party. He has been twice married, and celebrated his first nuptials with Miss Sarah Ann Sisco January 1, 1860, and by her he had two children, John and Sarah Annie. She died in February 1863, and on December 13 following he was married to Miss Mary Jane Sivey, who was born June 4, 1840. By this second marriage there have been born to him three children. The names of all his children and the dates of their birth are as follows: John, October 15, 1860; Sarah Annie, January 31, 1862; Rosetta, September 19, 1864; Clarence, January 21, 1866, and Levi, October 24, 1869.

JACOB EDWARDS, farmer, Lee, the fifth of eight children by Od and Dora (Odson), was born in Norway, May 25, 1842. In June, 1866, he emigrated to America and settled in La Salle county, where he lived till 1872, working first as a hand and afterward renting land. In that year he came to this township, and was married February 10, to Miss Inger Odeson, daughter of John and Ann Odeson, who emigrated from Norway in 1858. Mrs. Edwards was born in the old country June 27, 1854. Their five children were born as follows: Oscar John, November 8, 1873; John Ephraim, May 4, 1875; Dora, September 18, 1876; Andrew Oly, November 3, 1878, and Marshal Lewis, December 2, 1880. In 1873 Mr. Edwards purchased the farm he now occupies from his father-in-law, and his parents-in-law reside with him. His homestead consists of eighty acres on Sec. 22, is five miles north of Paw Paw, and is worth \$3,600. Mr. and Mrs. Edwards are members of the Norwegian church. The former left his parents in Norway, and his mother died after his departure, at the age of seventy, but his father is still living. In 1874 Mr. Edwards filed his declaration of intention to become a citizen, in 1878 obtained his naturalization papers, and in 1880 voted for Gen. Garfield for president.

SAMUEL B. MILLER, farmer and stock raiser, Paw Paw Grove, was born February 15, 1843. His father's given name is William, and his mother's maiden name was Eliza Vosburg. In the autumn of 1856 his father brought his family to Illinois, settling in Viola township, where the subject of this notice lived until the spring of 1867, and then came to his present farm on Sec. 30. He owned 120 acres until the spring of this year (1881); at that time he purchased 100 acres more, and the whole, in a good state of cultivation, well stocked with implements, and containing first-class buildings, is valued at \$11,000. Mr. Miller never learned a trade, but was descended from ancestors who were all natural craftsmen, and his own practical ability in this



line of industry has enabled him to use tools all his life with no little skill and real benefit. He does his own wood-work, and has put up all his buildings except one barn. His marriage with Miss Sarah Miller, daughter of Adam Miller, was celebrated July 22, 1866. Mrs. Miller was born January 1, 1847. They have had seven children: Joseph, Llewellyn and Lewis (twins), the latter dead, Nettie, Clement, Della, and Mary. Mr. Miller is a republican.

RALPH KETTLEY, farmer, Compton, son of John and Ann (Paul) Kettley, was born in Wales in May 1828. He learned the shoemaker's trade, and in 1849 emigrated to America with only enough money to pay his way, and settled in Chicago in the boot and shoe trade in partnership with John Blow. At the end of three years he moved to Peoria, followed his trade there three years, then came to Ottawa a few months, after which he moved to Bloomington, and was in that place nearly a year. Next he settled in Wyoming township, this county, working at farming summers and at his trade winters for several years. In December, 1864, he came into this township, where he had previously bought 160 acres of land on Sec. 18, which is now well improved and valued at \$11,000. Mr. Kettley was married in 1852, to Miss Eliza Beddow, who was born March 6, 1827. They have had eight children: William, John, Lizzie (now Mrs. James Anglemyer, of Compton), Julia, Thomas, Harriet, Lillie (dead), and Mary. All these children except William were born in Wyoming township. John lives in Nebraska, and was married this year (1881) to Miss Nettie Knapp. Mr. Kettley is a republican. Mrs. Kettley's mother died when the former was only ten years old, and for the next fifteen years she worked as a domestic. She borrowed money on her own promise to pay, and emigrated to America, in 1852, and after her arrival repaid it from wages she earned. Her grandmother Beddow lived to the great age of one hundred and three years, and when a hundred years old walked six miles to Mrs. Kettley's mother's funeral and back. This couple have climbed a rugged path together, but they have reached the summit of life, and the descending sun looks down upon a happy family and a comfortable home.

JAMES THOMPSON, deceased, was born in Virginia in 1803, and was the son of John and Martha (Beard) Thompson. His parents remained and died in Virginia, while he, when a young man, came to Ohio, and living there two years, removed to Indiana. He was in that state some twelve years, and in 1834 was married to Miss Amanda Duntin, who lived near Fort Wayne. She was the daughter of Ephraim H. and Abigail Duntin, and was born in Watertown, New York, in 1815, and united with the Methodist church when eighteen years old. In 1841 Mr. Thompson moved to this county and settled at Malugin's Grove, remaining there two years. In 1842 he bought a claim of William

Moore at Twin Groves, in company with Levi Lathrop, and the following year settled there. His health having become impaired, in 1851 he drove to California with an ox-team, remained there a little less than two years, and returned by steamship. Not long after his marriage he became a member of the Methodist church, and was always an active and exemplary christian. He took the principal interest in the building of the Methodist church at the Groves, and contributed very liberally toward that object. He was constable once in Indiana, and was once elected justice of the peace here, but did not qualify, and would never afterward hold public office. He was modest in manner, retiring in disposition, and loved a good name more than worldly goods, but secured both, and left behind many warm personal friends to revere his memory. His overflowing kindness to everybody, particularly to people moving into the country and needing assistance, was proverbial. He was a large-hearted man, benevolent always, and very active in his charities, and many a poor heart has warmed in gratitude to him for such practical remembrances as drive the wolf from the door. In all his good works he was cordially supported by his estimable wife, who is still living on the homestead which their joint labors secured to make comfortable their declining years. Mrs. Gilbert Durin, formerly Catherine Norris, was reared in their home, as was also their niece, Lucy Jane Blair, daughter of Robert Blair, who is now Mrs. Ebenezer Pettenger, and lives in the Thompson home. "Aunt Amanda" has, no less than Mr. Thompson had, a warm place in the hearts of a wide circle of acquaintances. The latter died July 5, 1868.

PATRICK H. DAUGHERTY, farmer, Paw Paw Grove, was born in Hancock county, Maryland, March 17, 1833. His parents, John and Mary Daugherty, both died when he was young. He has been a farmer most of his life, but during the four years immediately preceding his immigration to Illinois he was on the Baltimore and Ohio railroad, the first six months as brakeman and after that as freight conductor. Except the first three months that he ran from Baltimore to Washington, he was on the road from Baltimore to Martinsburg. In January, 1855, he came to this state, and though he never learned a trade, has worked as a mason since, about ten years altogether. He settled first in Lee county. In 1858 he married Miss Mary Jane Fisher, who was born July 28, 1835, and in 1861 he moved to Knox county, living there nearly three years. Returning, he lived at Jefferson Grove, Ogle county, one year. In 1865 he moved into Rochelle and was there two years, and for two years after occupied a farm adjoining the town. In the fall of 1869 he came into Lee county, and has since been in Viola and Willow Creek, four years in the former and the remainder of the time in the latter. In politics he is a democrat.

Mr. and Mrs. Daugherty have had ten children : Thomas F., Alice J., Lydia Ann, James A., Ella P., John H., Etta R., Julia F., Jennie (dead), and Minnie.

ADAM MILLER, farmer and blooded stock raiser, Paw Paw Grove, was born in North Hampton, now Monroe county, Pennsylvania, August 19, 1816. He was the eighth child of Frederick and Catherine (Brong) Miller, and was descended from Teutonic ancestry, one of his great-grandfathers being a German. He attended the common schools of his day, was raised to farming and lumbering, and at the age of eighteen began at the milling business. This he followed until the spring of 1857, when he emigrated to Illinois, a poor man with nine children and \$600, and located his family on the W.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of N.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 29. Afterward he bought the E.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of E.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of N.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 30, and the S. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of S.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 29, making 160 acres altogether, valued at \$12,000. This is beautifully situated, highly improved, and bears the name of "Rosedale Stock Farm," on which Mr. Miller raises thoroughbred short-horn cattle, grade horses, and blooded Poland China hogs. He was born in Wilkesbarre, Luzerne county, Pennsylvania, January 20, 1839, to Miss Mary Neyhart, daughter of Peter and Elizabeth Neyhart. She was born October 10, 1817. They have had ten children : Cornelia (dead), Merritt, Clement (dead), Jenette (dead), Sarah, William, Seldon, Holden, Charles, and Leonora. Merritt enlisted in Co. K, 75th Ill. Vols., in August 1862, and fought at Perryville; after that battle he was detailed as clerk, and in that position served the remainder of his term of three years. Clement volunteered in February 1865, went to Chicago, where he was taken sick, and did not recover till after the close of the war. Mr. Miller has been a professing christian since 1852. He united with the Methodist Episcopal church in that year, brought his church letter west, and when the Protestant Episcopal church was organized here, united with that and remained a member as long as it existed. He has no connection with any religious society at the present time, but helps to support preaching at the Twin Groves Methodist church. Mrs. Miller was for many years a Presbyterian, but has not united with any church since coming to Illinois, and is now a Methodist in belief, having rejected the doctrine of election. Mr. Miller was raised a Master Mason in Brooklyn Lodge, No. 282, January 28, 1863; he was dimitted January 20, 1875, and affiliated with Corinthian Lodge, No. 205, November 4, 1875. He is a member of Rochelle Chapter A.F. and A.M., and belongs also to the Masonic Benevolent Society of Princeton, Illinois. He was a democrat up to 1856, but in that year cast his vote for Gen. John C. Fremont, and has adhered to the same line of political faith since.

OSMAN J. HENG, hardware merchant, Lee, son of Jacob A. and



Asher (Lenning) Heng, was born in Norway, April 19, 1854. In 1864 the family emigrated to America and settled in Alto township. Mr. Heng attended the common schools at first, and was at the graded school at Marshall, Wisconsin, two winters. In 1877 he began to learn the tinner's trade in Leland, and was in that place up to the time he came to Lee, in March 1879. He is junior member of the firm of Weeks & Heng, and has been in trade in this town since December 1880. These gentlemen have a full assortment of goods in their line and are doing a large business. They are young men full of enterprise, honorable in their dealings, and agreeable in their intercourse. Mr. Heng was married September 14, 1878, to Miss Belle Thompson, of Lee, daughter of Thomas Thompson, who still lives in Norway. They have one son, Jacob Otto, born August 7, 1879. Mr. and Mrs. Heng are members of the Norwegian Lutheran church, and he is a republican. When an infant, Mr. Heng was overtaken by a serious accident in the loss of his right leg, in the fall of 1854, in a horse power. In the spring of 1878 his parents removed to Iowa, and on July 4, the next year, while attending a celebration at Callanan, Hamilton county, his father was fatally shot by a drunken ruffian, and died in about two weeks.

GEORGE MULLINS, farmer, Lee, son of Robert and Sarah (Hullet) Mullins, was born in Sheffield, England, in 1842. His father had formerly worked in the cutlery business, but when Mr. Mullins was a very small infant he quit that craft and went to farming, and followed it as long as he was engaged in any regular employment. In 1852 the family emigrated and made a home in Shabbona township, De Kalb county. His father's house stood within forty rods of the track of the tornado which swept through these parts in 1860, and the doors and windows were shattered. His mother had been in feeble health for a long time; the shock to her nerves was more than she could bear, and she died in about two weeks. His father is now living retired in Shabbona. Mr. Mullins was married November 14, 1866, to Miss Mary Ann Bostock, who was adopted by William and Ann Bostock, when she was three months old. Her own mother, Catherine Gray, died of consumption nearly four years afterward. Mr. Bostock came to America in 1865 to view the country, and was followed by the family the next year. They located themselves first at Shabbona Grove, but now live on the county line in De Kalb county. They never had children of their own, but have reared seven adopted ones. Mr. and Mrs. Mullins have seven children: Sarah Minnie, Emma Louisa, William, Robert, George F. and Maud Mary (twins), and Mary Ann. Mr. Mullins owns 220 acres, valued at \$11,000. His farm comprises the S.  $\frac{1}{4}$



of S.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 12, ninety acres on the N.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 18, in this township, and fifty acres on the S.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 7, T. 38, R. 3. He is a republican.

CHARLES CHILDS, farmer and stock raiser, Lee, was born in Sharon, Vermont, January 28, 1830, and was the eldest child of Harvey and Charissa (Little) Childs. His father was a noted millwright and bridge-builder. In 1838 he moved to Illinois, and settled in Mendota, La Salle county. Both parents are yet living in that place, well advanced in years, and enjoying a comfortable fortune. The origin of the Childs family in the United States was the settlement of Ephraim Childs at Watertown, in the Massachusetts colony, 1630. The ancestor of the larger number of this name was Benjamin Childs, presumably a nephew of Ephraim, who, it is thought, crossed the ocean from England at the same time. He settled at Roxbury, where he lived a busy and useful life. The subject of this sketch assisted his father in the opening of several prairie farms in his younger days, when the country was in a comparatively wild state. After having served out his minority on a farm, having a strong inclination to be a worker in wood, in his twenty-second year he took up the use of tools without ever serving an apprenticeship. He was handy with these by nature, so when he engaged in carpentering it was without inconvenience, and he followed the business successfully fourteen years as architect, builder and contractor. In 1851 he went to Lamoille, and though he was not there all the time, yet it was the place he called home, and it was there that he began his career as a craftsman. On September 28, 1858, he was married to Miss Eliza A. Smith, daughter of Alonzo and Rebecca (Sheldon) Smith. She was born March 26, 1834. They have reared four children, as follows: Viola Alvaretta, Frank Leslie, Lyman Wheelock, and Nellie Eliza. Mr. Childs is a republican. On July 10, 1861, he came from Lamoille to his present location in Willow Creek, and bought eighty acres. He made his start in life unaided, and without outside aid he has kept adding on to his first purchase until he now owns a very desirable homestead of 285 acres, three-fourths of a mile south of Lee, and valued at \$20,000. It is situated on the county line, and lies in both Lee and De Kalb. When Mr. Childs came, twenty years ago, not a shrub grew in sight of his place, and not a panel of fence obstructed travel between here and Rochelle. Now he is in the midst of beautiful improvements that have no limit on any hand. The iron horse that careers past the door of his pleasant and tasteful home sets him down in Chicago in little more than two hours. All the advantages of a brisk and flourishing town are at command at the end of a few moments' pleasurable ride in fine carriages and behind spirited animals, such as Mr. Childs keeps and drives. Should we wonder if social joy abounds in a home where stately rows of willows line the

tidy and fertile fields, and trim and lofty maples spread their branches in the yards and around the comfortable farm buildings?

WILLIAM H. EMMETT, book-keeper, Lee, was born near Niagara Falls, Canada, in 1849, and lived there with his parents, James and Elizabeth (Dalson) Emmett, till he was seventeen years old, farming at home summers, and attending the common schools winters. He then pursued a three years' course of study at St. Catherine's, and at twenty commenced teaching, following this two years. In 1871 he celebrated his marriage with Miss Susannah Castleman, and in the autumn of that year he came to Willow Creek and engaged in teaching, keeping three terms in this township and one in Alto. In the spring of 1873 he moved to Lee, and was employed by J. Cheasbro & Co., and after a few months took charge of their books as book-keeper. He continued in the office of McLane, West & Co. after they bought out Cheasbro & Co., and until December 1874. In the winter following he taught the first school in the village of Lee, and in April accepted the position of book-keeper in the grain office of Christopher & Jorgens, and has filled it to the present time. He has the agency, also, for eight of the leading insurance companies now doing business. Two years he was village trustee, and at the annual meeting in 1881 he was elected justice of the peace for this township. He is affiliated politically with the republican party, and both himself and Mrs. Emmett have their membership in the Baptist church. They have three children: Burton Ellis, Clara, and Arthur D. Mr. Emmett has been active in promoting the Sunday-school interests and temperance work of Lee, and has been superintendent of the Union Sabbath-school two and a half years. We acknowledge with pleasure his valuable assistance in furnishing material facts for the history of the village.

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#### ADDITIONAL MATTER.

The matter that follows, much of it of a very important character, was received too late for insertion in the portion of the book originally designed for it. Some of the sketches were held for revision by friends until the sheets containing the matter most appropriate for them had gone to press.

JOHN W. WODSWORTH, agricultural merchant, Dixon, was born in Frederick county, Maryland, November 1, 1844. He is a son of Christopher and Matilda (Feaster) Wodsworth, pioneer settlers of this section, who endured the many hardships and inconveniences alone known to pioneer life. John W., the subject of this sketch, came to Illinois with his parents in 1847, when three years old, and re-

mained with his parents on the home farm, located in Ogle county, until 1866, when he secured and creditably filled the position of freight clerk and telegraph operator at the Illinois Central depot at Dixon for five years. He then went to Amboy, in Lee county, and acted as superintendent's private secretary in railroad office at that place, which position he filled for a year and a half; thence removing to Bloomington, Illinois, filling the important position of station agent in that city for six years. During his association with railroad matters he gained the esteem and confidence of his employers, and his efficiency in the work made his resignation in 1873 a matter of regret. By economy during this period he saved from his earnings a sufficient amount to purchase 120 acres of fine farming land in Harmon township, to which he soon added 40 acres more, onto which he moved after severing his relation with the railroads. In the two years following he was very successful, and his income enabled him to purchase 120 acres more, giving him 280 acres of well-improved land. From this land in 1880 and 1881 he sold as follows: corn, 9,000 bushels; oats, 2,500 bushels; ear-load of fat hogs, besides other stock, the whole aggregating over \$4,525. He has now rented his farm, cash rent, and moved to Dixon to reside, having purchased the beautiful residence in North Dixon known as the Manny property, and is associated with Maj. Downing in the agricultural implement business. In 1868, while residing in Dixon, he was united in marriage to Miss Josephine Goble, daughter of James Goble, Esq., an old citizen of Dixon, and for many years sheriff of Lee county. The issue of this union was six children, four boys and two girls. Mr. Wodsworth has five brothers and five sisters, all living. His mother is also living, but his father passed away in 1875.

JAMES SANTEE, farmer, Dixon, was born in Luzerne county, Pennsylvania, on April 9, 1803, son of James M. and Rachel (McNeal) Santee, of Pennsylvania. He was married February 21, 1837, to Miss Margaret Clinetop, daughter of Christopher and Margaret (Varner) Clinetop, of Pennsylvania. In the month of April, 1837, they left their native state, and reached Illinois in June following, and settled in Lee county during the summer. They were among the first settlers of Lee county, and are associated with its early history in this work. The issue of their marriage was four children, two of whom are living: James M., who resides on the home farm, and Lyidia, who lives with her aged mother on the same place. James Santee, the subject of this sketch, was an enterprising citizen and good farmer, and his death, on December 16, 1871, was generally lamented. His family that survive him are highly esteemed and respected.

DAVID R. BOWLES, merchant, Dixon, was born in Franklin county, Pennsylvania, in 1831, and was the son of Robert and Jane (Ross)

Bowles. His parents removed from Hagerstown, Maryland, to Franklin county, Pennsylvania, in 1822, and resided there until their death. Mr. Bowles acquired his early education at an old log school, house in the vicinity of his home, and when twenty years old entered the office of a large ironworks in Bedford county, Pennsylvania, as a clerk. He remained there for nearly four years, and then removed to Cambria county, Pennsylvania, where he occupied a similar position. In 1860 he removed to Reynoldstown, Lee county, Illinois, where he purchased a farm upon which he remained until 1875, when he rented his farm and removed into Dixon, and soon after engaged in the grocery business, which he still carries on. Mr. Bowles was married in Bedford county, Pennsylvania, October 31, 1855, to Miss Rebecca D. Scott, daughter of Thomas Scott, Esq., and a sister of the Hon. Thomas A. Scott, lately deceased, who was assistant secretary of war during the administration of Abraham Lincoln, and widely known in later years as the president of the Pennsylvania Central Railroad Company, and as one of the most energetic and capable railroad men in the United States. Mr. Bowles has six children: Thomas S., George N., Harriet, David R., Minnie J. and DeCharms B., all of whom reside with their parents. In political sentiment Mr. Bowles is a republican, but votes and uses his influence for what he deems the best interests of the country, independent of party ties.

B. B. HIGGINS, merchant and stock raiser, Dixon, was born at Perry, Wyoming county, New York, in February 1829. His parents were Selden and Polly (Taylor) Higgins. His father was a furniture manufacturer, and died while Mr. Higgins was quite young. He received his education at Perry and at the Homer Academy, located at Homer, Cortland county, New York. When he was seventeen years of age he started into the drug business at Perry and carried on that branch of business for some five or six years. He removed to Dixon in the spring of 1858 and opened a drug store, which he still conducts. He also owns a stock farm in the vicinity of Dixon and has achieved great reputation as a successful breeder of blooded stock. An account of this farm appears elsewhere. Mr. Higgins was married in Perry, New York, to Miss N. A. Huntington, of Shaftsbury, Vermont, in 1856, who died at Dixon in 1865. He has but one surviving child, Arthur S. Higgins, who was born at Dixon, August 2, 1863. Mr. Higgins is a republican in politics and an elder in a Presbyterian church.

JOHN A. WERNICK, farmer, Dixon, was born in Saxony, June 14, 1789, and is now in his ninety-third year. Notwithstanding his advanced age he is active and in the enjoyment of all his mental faculties. In his youth he served under the great Napoleon, and was



present at the battles of Berlin, Reisenbach, and Katzbach, and was a participant in the disastrous Russian campaign. He was also present at the battle of Leipsic, during which the Saxon troops deserted the waning fortunes of Bonaparte and went over to the enemy. From that time until the final overthrow of Napoleon at Waterloo Mr. Wernick fought against his former commander, and carries with him two certificates of honorable service in the shape of a saber-cut upon his head and a terrible scar upon his wrist caused by the thrust of a lance. Mr. Wernick migrated to America in 1848, settling first in Ogle county; but in 1851 removed to Lee county and purchased the farm now occupied by him. His son, Ernest Wernick, was born in Haringen, Prussia, in 1832, and was brought up in his native country. He came to America in 1848 with his father. He has been engaged in farming ever since and is now the owner of some 450 acres of fine land in Dixon township. In September, 1862, he enlisted in 75th Ill. Inf. and served in that regiment for three years with great credit to himself. He was married at Dixon in 1855, to Miss Mary Page, who died in 1862, and in 1865 he was again married, to Miss Catherine Rupert. He has eight children living: Henry, Annie, Mary, George, Minnie, Wesley, Oscar, and Carrie. Mr. Wernick is an earnest republican and a member of the Evangelical Lutheran church.

ELIAS B. STILES, capitalist, Dixon, was born in Huntingdon, Luzerne county, Pennsylvania, on March 9, 1820, and was the son of Lewis and Sarah (Dodson) Stiles. He was brought up and educated in his native county, but when twenty years of age came to Dixon, where he became a clerk, which occupation he followed for two years, after which he formed a copartnership with Otis A. Eddy, under the firm name of Eddy & Stiles, which continued until 1846, when Mr. Stiles moved to St. Louis. In 1848 he returned to Dixon and engaged largely in the land agency and real estate business. He opened a private bank in 1853, and enjoyed a large and prosperous business until 1864, when, owing to unfortunate speculations, he was obliged to suspend. Since 1864 he has been largely engaged in farming and agricultural pursuits, and is also one of the largest and most daring operators on the Chicago board of trade, having experienced many favorable and unfavorable vicissitudes, but meeting good or evil fortune with equal nerve and fortitude. He has long been a prominent member of the democratic party in his district, and was for ten years county treasurer. In 1862 he was the democratic candidate for congress in his district against Hon. E. B. Washburne, and made a sharp and close contest for the position. Mr. Stiles was married at Dixon on August 8, 1847, to Miss Sybil Van Arnam, and they have three sons: Charles, born September 18, 1848; Alexander, born July 18, 1854; and Eugene B., born No-

venber 8, 1861. On the morning of August 26, 1881 (and after the foregoing sketch was written), the sad and sudden announcement of the death of Mr. Stiles, in Chicago, from paralysis of the heart, came to the citizens of Dixon, taking them by surprise, as very few knew of his illness. He had experienced one severe stroke of paralysis some three years since, and one comparatively slight attack since, but had gone from Dixon to Chicago but a few days before his death in his usual good health and spirits, and no one anticipated such a sudden termination of his active and energetic career. His remains were brought to Dixon, and the funeral services took place at the Methodist Episcopal church on Sunday, August 28, a large concourse of his fellow-citizens attending and showing by their presence the esteem and respect in which he was universally held.

RICHARD B. LOVELAND, deceased, Dixon, was born in Bainbridge, New York, May 1, 1819, and was the son of Otis and Mehitabel (Parker) Loveland. He was reared and educated at Bainbridge, and at an early age entered the employ of Smith Gilbraith, who afterward moved to Dixon and became one of the leading business men of that section. When Mr. Loveland was twenty-two years of age Mr. Gilbraith sent for him to come to Dixon, which he immediately did, arriving at his destination almost penniless. His first employment consisted in overseeing the workmen employed in removing obstructions from Rock river with a view to making it navigable. In 1842, in company with Elijah Dixon, a son of Father Dixon, he procured, through the influence of Mr. Gilbraith, the contract for carrying the mails between Milwaukee and Janesville, Wisconsin. Mr. Dixon dying a year later, his interest was purchased by Mr. Loveland, who continued to hold the contract for some years longer, making considerable money; but when the passenger coaches of Frink & Walker were put on the route he returned to Dixon and engaged in the general mercantile business, which he continued up to his death, which occurred in August 1851. He was married in May 1843, to Miss Susan Clute, of Dixon, and left three children surviving: Willett O., born in 1844, and now a merchant at Byron, Illinois; George, born in 1847, and now engaged in business at Mount Carroll, Illinois; Kittie, born in 1850, and married in October 1871, to Dr. H. E. Paine, of Dixon. Mrs. Loveland was married a second time in October 1854, to Maj. James A. Watson, of Dixon, who served for three years in the 75th Ill. Vols., and since the close of the war has been actively engaged in railroad contracting and bridge building. Mr. and Mrs. Watson have three children: Fred M., born in 1854, and Samuel, born in 1858, both of whom are in the employ of prominent wholesale houses in Chicago, and Nellie, born in 1864, who resides with her parents.

JAMES M. SANTEE, farmer and stock raiser, Dixon. Prominent among the pioneers of Lee county may be mentioned James M. Santee and his wife Margaret (Klintob) Santee. They came here from Luzerne county, Pennsylvania, in 1837, with a team, and settled in Dixon township. Mr. Santee died December 16, 1873, after a life of usefulness and honest toil, loved and respected by all who were favored with an acquaintance with him. Mrs. Santee is still (1881) living on the old home, at the advanced age of eighty years. Their son James M. was born in Lee county, Dixon township, September 11, 1845, and was reared and educated on the farm, finishing his education at the Mount Morris (Ogle county, Illinois) and Mount Vernon (Iowa) academies. After this he engaged in farming on his father's farm. On June 22, 1871, he married Miss Susanah, daughter of John and Martha (Cooper) Blackman, a native of England, who came with her parents to America in 1851 and to Illinois in 1859. They are the parents of three children: Charles, Martha, and Wilber. Mr. Santee is now living on the old home in Sec. 10, T. 22, R. 9, of which he owns half, there being in the farm 240 acres. Stock raising and farming are his permanent employment.

HETTLERS, farmers, Dixon. Many men there are who, though quiet and unassuming, "leave footprints on the sands of time." The deep stream moves silently on with scarce a ripple, yet far greater are its burdens and more lasting its wearings on rocky bank and bed. So it is with silent men. They bear the burdens of society. They are lighthouses to the generations on the billowy ocean of time, which men seeing, take heed and steer their frail life-boats into calmer waters, away from noisy dashings of surf-beaten rocks and reefs. It is well that such men live. Such a man was Nathan Hetler, a name positively German. Mr. Hetler was born in Columbia county, Pennsylvania, February 14, 1809. He early learned the carpenter's trade, which he followed till coming west. He was married to Katharine Kulp, who was born in the same county in 1806. Mr. and Mrs. Hetler, with their three children, Anna M., now Mrs. James A. Heaton, Mary A., wife of Aquilla Spencer, and Hiram, moved across the country with a two-horse wagon, bringing their all and landing about June 6, 1837. Their first residence was on Sec. 35, T. 22, R. 9, W., in what is now Nachusa township. At the end of two years a change of location found them on Sec. 2, T. 21, R. 9, on an eighty-acre farm. This he improved, and on this farm Mr. Hetler built the first barn erected on the prairie. In this barn the Lutherans held services prior to the erection of their church. In a few years this farm was sold and what is now the homestead was purchased. Here Mr. Hetler died, May 22, 1877, and here Mrs. Hetler still survives. The names of both these pioneers are on the

records of the Lutheran church as among its organizers. After their arrival in Lee county five children were born to them: Jesse, Jeremiah, Amanda, John, Henry C. (dead). Hiram, the third child, was born in Columbia county, Pennsylvania, January 17, 1836. His early years were such as were common to pioneer children, the farm and the subscription school. In 1859 he made a trip to California, whence he returned in 1860. August 11, 1862, he was united in marriage to Nancy, daughter of Seth and Elizabeth (Smith) Crippen, both natives of New York, and who moved in 1856 to Dixon, where they resided many years, but subsequently made their home in Michigan. Mrs. Hetler was born near Rochester, New York, May 17, 1843. August 22, 1862, Mr. Hetler enlisted in his country's service in Co. F, 1st Ill. Light Art. He was actively engaged at Vicksburg, Jackson, Mississippi, Missionary Ridge, in the series of battles and skirmishes from Chattanooga to Atlanta, and thence with Thomas to Nashville. When mustered out he was transferred to Co. A, with which he was finally discharged July 12, 1865. Mr. Hetler then returned to the quiet pursuits of the farm. He has now a farm of 240 acres, well improved. He has been much engaged in the affairs of his vicinity, having been school director continually since the war with the exception of three years, also assistant supervisor since 1878 and highway commissioner since 1873. In the family are three children: Ida G., Lulu M. and Minnie E. John Hetler, the seventh child of Nathan and Katharine Hetler, has charge of the homestead. The farm, buildings, and all, speak order and system, doing honor to the owner.

JEREMIAH HETLER, farmer and stock raiser, Dixon, son of Nathan and Katharine (Kulp) Hetler, was born in Lee county, Illinois, October 4, 1842, and, like his father, was reared a farmer, and strictly trained in the ways of industry and economy, receiving such an education as could be obtained in the pioneer schools of this county's early history. He remained at home with his father till the farm was cleared of debt, at which time he was about twenty-six years of age. December 25, 1867, he married Miss Mary E., daughter of William and Selinda (Morehead) McCleary. She was born in Lawrence county, Pennsylvania, March 15, 1843, and came to Lee county in 1864. They have three children: Grace M., Katie M. and Nettie S. In 1877 Mr. Hetler moved on his farm in Sec. 10, T. 22, R. 9, and engaged in farming and stock raising.

THOMAS J. BUCKALOO, farmer and stock raiser, Dixon, was born in Dixon, March 17, 1842. His early youth was spent in farming and attending school, the latter to a very limited extent, as his father died leaving him to care for himself at the age of twelve years. The next five years of his life was spent in working out by the month, after



which he engaged in farming for himself. January 23, 1867, he married Miss Maggie A., daughter of Mr. John and Margaret (Mong) Craddock, who was born in Maryland, May 11, 1843, and came to Lee county when a child nine years old. They are the parents of five children: Clinton C., Mabel E., Grace, Elizabeth L. and Allen T. Mr. Buckaloo is now the owner of the old homestead, where he now lives engaged in farming and stock raising. His father, Joseph Buckaloo, was born in Columbia county, Pennsylvania, January 22, 1811: was united in marriage, in 1835, with Miss Eliza Kerr, who was born January 24, 1815, in Northampton county, Pennsylvania. In 1839 they came to Dixon, where, after renting around two years, they, in 1841, bought a claim in Sec. 15 and 16, T. 22, R. 9, permanently settled, and lived till the death of Mr. Buckaloo in 1852. He is buried in the Dixon cemetery. Mrs. Buckaloo is still living, and resides at her pleasant home in the city of Dixon. Of their six children three are living: Thomas J., Amanda, and George W.; the latter in 1881 removed to Wisconsin.

STEPHEN FULLER, farmer, Dixon, is a son of Joshua and Sybel (Chappen) Fuller, and was born March 17, 1797. His business through life has been farming. He came from Luzerne county, Pennsylvania, to Dixon in an early day. At the time he first saw Dixon there were but a few houses or cabins there besides the old fort. His first winter was spent near Dixon, but in the spring he moved out on his claim in Sec. 37, T. 22, R. 9, and bought the same (320 acres) when it came into market, and has ever since made this place his home, preferring a home in the beautiful State of Illinois to one in the old rocky state of his nativity. He left Pennsylvania with a team and wagon and drove through to Dixon. The country was then so sparsely settled that from twenty to thirty miles could be traveled and without seeing a house. He was married December 12, 1822, to Miss Anna H. Pratt. She died in 1851, leaving him with three children living: Champion, Caroline, wife of James Poorman, now living at Lyons, Iowa, and Abraham, who was born in Lee county, February 9, 1837, and is probably the oldest native born citizen now living in the county.

WILLIAM DEPUY, farmer and lime dealer, Dixon, is a son of Harmon and Catharine Depuy: was born in Tioga county, New York, October 16, 1833, and in 1838 came with his parents in a wagon to Lee county. For six weeks after their arrival in Dixon they lived tented in their wagon, after which they moved into a house on rented ground. Mr. Depuy soon after bought a claim, but continued to rent land about five years before moving on his new home. This delay was caused by his loss of money (\$1,500) lent to a man in the mercantile

trade in Dixon. After moving on his farm about two miles northeast of Dixon he remained there till the time of his death, which occurred September 15, 1856, aged sixty years. Mrs. Depuy died August 20, 1869, aged sixty-two years. They are buried, and are now resting side by side in the beautiful cemetery in Dixon. January 25, 1870, William, the subject of this sketch, was married to Miss Mary J. McEvitt, a native of Ireland but of Scotch parents. They are the parents of six children, as follows: Oscar, Lillian, William H., Edner, Jacob C. and Frances. About 1851 Mr. Depuy, with his brother, began burning lime near their home a short distance up the river from Dixon, but some years later they purchased a large and valuable body of limestone adjoining the city of Dixon, where Mr. Depuy is now constantly burning large quantities for both home and outside demand.

HON. JOSEPH CRAWFORD, surveyor and banker, Dixon, was born in Columbia county, Pennsylvania, May 19, 1811, and is the son of John and Catharine (Cassedy) Crawford. In 1822 he removed with his parents to Huntington, Luzerne county, Pennsylvania, and at the age of twenty he engaged in school teaching, in which profession he continued for four years. On April 4, 1835, he started for Illinois. Passing Chicago and Dixon's Ferry, he stopped at Galena, where he remained but a short time, returning to Dixon's Ferry, and located on a farm south of Grand Detour, in May of the same spring. He also engaged in business as surveyor, which he followed extensively until recent years, and made the original survey of most of the villages on Rock river from Rockford to Rock Island. In 1836 he was appointed deputy county surveyor for northwest Illinois, and was elected county surveyor of Ogle county, which then included Whitesides and Lee, and was elected surveyor of Lee county at the time of its organization in 1840, in which office he served for eighteen years. He served in 1841 as member of the first board of county commissioners for the county of Lee, and was elected to represent Lee and Whitesides in the Illinois state legislature in 1849, and reelected to the same in 1853. In 1852 he settled in Dixon, where he still resides. He has dealt extensively in farming lands, and owns about twelve hundred acres of fine farming land in Lee county; one farm of 1,000 acres in one body three miles east of the city of Dixon, and one four miles southwest of the city, embracing 200 acres. Both farms are devoted to grain and stock-growing. He was one of the chartered members of Lee county national bank, which was organized in 1865, since which time he has sustained the relation of president. He was elected mayor of the city of Dixon in 1873, and reelected the two following terms. On September 16, 1852, Mr. Crawford was united in marriage to Mrs. Huld (Bowman) Culver. Resulting from this union is a son, Joseph Willber Crawford, born

August 20, 1859, and still making his father's house his home. Mr. Crawford had two brothers and three sisters. His brother, Dr. John S. Crawford, of Williamsport, Pennsylvania, was killed by a train of cars while crossing the track in his buggy. His brother, Samuel Crawford, resides at Sterling, this state; his two surviving sisters are Sarah and Catharine; the former, Mrs. L. W. Hale, resides in Lee county, and the latter married Mr. John Litle, of Pennsylvania. They now reside in Hardin county, Iowa. His parents were born in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, and his forefathers were of Scotch blood. Mrs. Joseph Crawford was the daughter of John and Mary (Bretten) Bowman; the father was born on the banks of the Delaware river in Pennsylvania, and the mother on Staten Island. Her grandfather, Christopher Bowman, was of Germany.

NATHAN A. CORTRIGHT, farmer, Dixon, was born in Luzerne county, Pennsylvania, on September 27, 1852, and is the son of Isaac and Mollie (Pollock) Cortright. His parents were natives of Pennsylvania, and resided in that state until 1862, when they removed to Illinois, and located in Dixon township. His father died in the spring of 1880, but his mother is still living. Mr. Cortright received the principal part of his education after his removal to Illinois, and after leaving school engaged in farming, in which occupation he still continues. He was married in 1873 to Miss Katie Burket, daughter of John M. Burket, deceased, an old resident of the township. They have three children: John W., aged six, Charles N., aged four, and Shelby M., aged two years. Politically Mr. Cortright is a republican, and his wife is a member of the Lutheran church.

WILLIAM P. CORTRIGHT, an elder brother of Nathan, was born in Pennsylvania in 1835, and when a young man was engaged in mercantile business, but at the breaking out of the civil war he enlisted in Co. A., 28th Penn. Vols. From exposure in the service he became disabled, and being discharged, he returned home, and was employed in the office of a mining and railroad engineer company, at Hazleton, Pennsylvania. He remained with them several years, though in extremely bad health, the result of his army career, and in the spring of 1868 his body from the waist down was completely paralyzed. He was then brought to the home of his parents at Dixon, and remained in a perfectly helpless condition until July 4, 1880, when death released him from his suffering, which he had borne with heroic fortitude and resignation for over twelve years.

PROF. JESSE B. DILLE, principal of the Northern Illinois Normal School and Dixon business college, was born in Huntington county, Indiana, on December 10, 1856, and is the son of Ichabod and Rebecca (Havens) Dille. His father is a farmer, and still resides in Huntington county.

Prof. Dille received his primary education in the schools of his native county, and then entered the normal school at Valparaiso, Indiana, from which he graduated in 1878, and then took charge of the school at Lagro, Indiana, remaining there a year. He then returned to Valparaiso and became a teacher in the normal school, where he remained until his removal to Dixon in 1881, when he, in connection with Mr. John C. Flint, established the school of which he is the head. Prof. Dille was married in 1879, to Miss Florence Flint, a resident of Valparaiso. He is a republican in politics, and a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. The flourishing institution which is under the management of Prof. Dille is yet in its infancy, its first term having but just been completed, but owing to the pluck and energy of its founder its success was assured from the beginning, and it already vies in the number of its pupils and in the variety and extent of its branches of study with similar schools of years standing and of established reputation. Prof. Dille has ten assistant instructors, and the course of study includes everything from the common branches to music and fine art. Phonography and type-writing are also taught by a competent and skilled instructor, Prof. J. D. Derr. So large has the attendance already become, and such popularity has the school attained, that it has become a necessity to erect a new college building, and a campus ground of twelve acres has been purchased on which a large college building will be erected in the spring. The estimation in which the school is held by the citizens of Lee county is shown in the fact that they have donated to the institution the sum of \$27,000, which will, without doubt, be increased to \$40,000.

“WHEREAS, Robert Hunt, son of Robert and Abigail Hunt, of Evesham Township, in Burlington County, in the Province of West New Jersey, Deceased, and Abigail Pancoast, Daughter of Samuel Pancoast, of Salisbury, in the County of Bucks and Province of Pennsylvania, Deceased, and Abigail his wife, now Abigail Duer, have declared their Intentions of Marriage with each other before Several Monthly Meetings of the people called Quakers, at the Falls, in the County of Bucks and Province aforesaid, according to the good Order Used amongst them, and having Consent of Parents and Relations concerned, their said Proposals of Marriage was allowed of by the said Meeting. Now, these are to certify all whom it may concern, that for the full accomplishing their said Intentions, this Nineteenth Day of the Twelvth Month, in the Year of our Lord One Thousand Seven Hundred and Sixty Four, they the said Robert Hunt and Abigail Pancoast, appeared in a Publick Meeting of the said people at Makefield, in the County and Province aforesaid, and the said Robert Hunt taking the said Abigail Pancoast by the Hand, did in a Solemn manner openly declare he took her



the said Abigail Pancoast to be his Wife, promising thro' the Lord's assistance to be unto her a loving and faithfull Husband untill Death should sepearate them; and then and there in the said Assembly, the said Abigail Pancoast did in like manner declare that she took the said Robert Hunt to be her Husband, promising thro' the Lord's assistance to be unto him a loving and faithfull Wife untill Death should sepearate them. And moreover, they the said Robert Hunt and Abigail Pancoast (she according to the custom of Marriage assuming the Name of her Husband), as a further Confirmation thereof, did then and there to these presents set their Hands. And we whose Names are hereunder also Subscribed, being present at the Solemnization of the said Marriage and Subscription has as Witnesses thereunto set our Hands the Day and Year above Written.

ROBERT HUNT,  
ABIGAIL HUNT.

John Jenlay,	Samuel Eastbern,	Abigail Duer,
Samuel Yardley,	Saml. Linton	Joseph Duer,
Jos. English, jr.,	Bernard Taylor,	Hannah Palmer,
Benjamin Aronson,	James Jolly,	Benjamin Taylor,
David Barton,	Sarah Dean,	Hannah Taylor,
Benjamin Taylor, jr.,	Mercy Beaumont,	Benj. Linton, jr.,
Agness Jenlay,	Rebecca Beaumont,	Jane Linton, jr.,
Wm. Bidgood, jr.,	Pehbe Jolly,	Hannah Linton,
John Simpson,	Hannah Bates,	Margaret Pearson,
John Taylor,	Phebe Longshore,	Joshua Linton,
Hannah Tayler, sr.,	Abigail Evans,	Wm. Pearson,
William Taylor,	Deborah Duer,	Jno. Hunt,
Hannah Taylor,	Samuel Pancoast,	Esther Hunt."
Timothy Taylor,	Rachel Duer,	

The marriage of Robert Hunt and Abigail Pancoast took place on December 19, 1764, in Bucks county, Pennsylvania, as shown by the foregoing copy of the marriage certificate, and resulted in the birth of the following children: Joshua, William, Samuel, John, Joseph, Seth, Mary, and Abigail. Joshua died at the age of sixty-two, and his only surviving son, Samuel, is and has been a prominent physician, but has now retired from practice and resides at Richmond, Indiana. The descendants of William and Samuel both reside in the State of Ohio, the former in Columbiana county, consisting of Elizabeth Coy, Martha Mall, and John Hunt; the latter resides in the southern portion of the state. John died at the age of twenty, and Joseph, who served in the army during the war of 1812, died at the age of thirty-one, soon after leaving the service in 1815. Abigail was the wife of Judge Henry, of Wooster, Ohio, and was the grandmother of the Henry family, of

Waterloo, Iowa, and of the Cummins family, of the same town, and of Des Moines, Iowa. The Painter family, living near Salem, Ohio, are descended from Mary. Seth Hunt, the youngest son of Robert and Abigail Hunt, was born in Culpepper county, Virginia, whither his parents had removed on February 2, 1788. When he was four years of age his parents removed to Winchester, Virginia, and some time after went to Brownsville, Pennsylvania. In 1804 they again changed their habitation, this time going to Ohio, where his father died the following year. Seth was left in an almost unbroken wilderness, surrounded by wild beasts and savages, to earn a subsistence for his mother and himself from a tract of land which was still unpaid for, but by the time he had attained his majority he had cleared off the debt and made a comfortable home. After residing here six years he sold this place and bought a quarter-section near Massillon, Ohio. His brother John, who had entered 140 acres in the vicinity, died in 1813, leaving Seth a part of his land, and he was now on the high road to prosperity, but by indorsing for one of his brothers he lost all he had accumulated. He then engaged in the manufacture of carding and spinning machines for several years at Millersburg, Ohio, of which town he was one of the founders. He also invented a machine for carding flax and engaged in their manufacture, investing all he had, some \$1,600 in the business; but this venture proved unfortunate, and he again lost everything and was in debt some hundreds of dollars. He then commenced selling dry-goods on commission, and made money. He remained in the dry-goods business for about ten years. His mother died early in 1827, and on September 20 of that year he was married to Miss Rebecca Hull, of Coshocton county, Ohio, who was descended from an old Virginia family. Her parents removed to Ohio in 1808, and her father dying soon after, her mother took charge of the farm, and after many trials and hardships became wealthy, leaving at her death seven well improved farms. After his marriage Seth Hunt read law, was admitted to the bar, and eventually became one of the associate judges of the circuit court of his district, which position he held for fourteen years. He died in July 1864, at the age of eighty-four, and was buried in the Methodist cemetery at Nashville, Ohio. He left three surviving children: Mary A., now the wife of Col. E. J. Pocock, a merchant of Coshocton, Ohio; Robert B., a resident of Columbus, Ohio, and Charles Cummins Hunt, of Dixon, Illinois. The latter was born in Millersburg, Holmes county, Ohio, on November 25, 1840. He was reared on a farm and attended the neighboring schools. At the age of fourteen he entered Spring Mountain College, Coshocton county, Ohio, where he remained for two years. He then became a teacher at Holmesville, Holmes county, and taught for twenty-six days a month,

and from eight in the morning until five in the afternoon. He was also a hard student at this time, remaining at the school-house during the evening and pursuing his studies by the light of the fire, feeling he could not afford the luxury of candles. It was at this time he first began his medical studies, going to Millersburg, Ohio, five miles distant, each week, to recite to his preceptor, Dr. Thomas McBright, one of the most prominent physicians in that part of Ohio. After remaining at Holmesville for two years he was appointed principal of the high school at Jefferson, Wayne county, Ohio, which position he occupied two years. He then entered the office of Dr. McBright, at Millersburg, for the purpose of continuing his medical studies, and remained there, with the exception of one term, during which he taught at Jefferson, until the spring of 1863, when he entered the Long Island Hospital, at Brooklyn, New York. Here he attended a course of lectures, and was then made assistant-surgeon of the 137th Ohio Vols. He had charge of the post hospital for several months, and was then detailed to Fort Ethan Allen, on Arlington Heights, where he was soon after placed in charge of the right wing of the brigade by the brigade surgeon. His regiment was mustered out in the fall of 1864, and he immediately entered Bellevue Hospital Medical College, where he remained during the ensuing term, and received the degree of M.D. in March 1865. Dr. Hunt then settled at Wooster, Ohio, and engaged in the practice of his profession, and after remaining there for two years he went to Philadelphia and New York, and received private instructions in the colleges and hospitals of those cities. On November 1, 1867, he came to Dixon and engaged in practice, which he has continued since, with the exception of three months in the winter of 1873-4, during which he was receiving special instruction in the hospitals of New York city. Dr. Hunt was first married on March 1, 1871, to Miss H. Jennie Pinckney, of Dixon. She died on December 17 of the same year, leaving an infant son, who died some months later. He was again married on September 16, 1874, to Miss Lucy I. Webster, of Polo, Ogle county. They have two children: Relura P., born July 18, 1875, and Nannie T., born October 9, 1876. Dr. Hunt has been a typical successful practitioner. Coming to Dixon young and unknown, he has built up an extensive and prosperous practice, and has made a host of friends. At the urgent solicitation of prominent and influential friends in New York city he has taken the question of his removal to that metropolis into consideration, expecting to find there a wider field for the exercise of his talents; and in the event of his removal, those who know him best are the most positive in the belief that a successful and honorable career will reward his efforts.

DANIEL W. McKENNEY, liveryman, Dixon, is a native of Canada, where he was born May 17, 1830, and is the son of Jacob and Mary (McCall) McKenney. His parents removed to Illinois and located near Dixon in 1848, where his father engaged in farming, which occupation he still follows. Daniel remained on the farm until 1852, when he went to California. He returned in the fall of 1853 and again engaged in farming until 1862, when he removed into Dixon and engaged in the livery business and has carried it on up to the present time. In 1878 he took in as a partner Mr. Vinal Hackett, under the firm name of D. W. McKenney & Co. Two of the uncles of Mr. McKenney were among the earliest settlers of Dixon, where one of them, Fred. C. McKenney, still resides. Mr. McKenney was married about twenty-five years ago to Miss G. A. La Porte, a resident of Wyoming township, Lee county, Illinois. Both Mr. McKenney and his partner, Mr. Hackett, are stalwart republicans.

PALMER ATKINS, merchant, Dixon, was born in Rome, Oneida county, New York, August 28, 1841. His parents were Seth and Jane (Palmer) Atkins, who were among the earliest settlers of Oneida county. His father is still living at Monmouth, Illinois, but his mother died in April 1857. Mr. Atkins was chiefly educated in his native town, and when about fifteen years old his parents removed to Chicago, but in 1857 Mr. Atkins went to Mendota, Illinois, where he began to learn the printing trade. In December, 1858, he came to Dixon and entered the office of the "Republican and Telegraph," where he remained until the breaking out of the war, when he enlisted in the 13th reg. Ill. Inf. May 24, 1861. He served for over three years, during most of the time being detailed as staff printer at the headquarters of Gens. Grant, Thomas and Curtis, his position giving him an excellent opportunity to become acquainted with the peculiarities and characteristics of these famous leaders. When mustered out of service he returned to Dixon and resumed his connection with the "Telegraph," where he continued until August 1876, when he engaged in the grocery business. He was elected collector of taxes in 1870, and is now serving his third term as town clerk. Mr. Atkins was married April 8, 1865, to Miss Cynthia Tillman, and they have one child living, Louis B. Atkins, fourteen years of age. In his political views Mr. Atkins is an out-and-out republican of the straightest sect.

JOHN HESS, real estate dealer, Dixon, is the son of Jacob and Salome (Fenstermaker) Hess, and was born in Luzerne county, Pennsylvania, April 3, 1831. His father was a farmer, and both parents died in Pennsylvania. Mr. Hess was reared and educated in Columbia county, Pennsylvania, whither his parents removed during his infancy, and when seventeen years of age became a clerk. In 1852 he went to California



via Cape Horn, and remained there about a year and a half, most of the time in the mining districts. After returning to the east he again engaged as a clerk, but about a year later removed to a farm which he had purchased. He sold his farm in 1858 and about a year later came to Lee county, where he decided to locate, and in 1860 brought out his family, and the next four years were about equally divided between farming and clerking. He then engaged in the real estate business, which he has since carried on. For the last three years he has done an extensive business selling railroad and speculators' lands west of the Mississippi, having taken out several excursions, which resulted in the sale of large tracts of land. Mr. Hess was married in 1855, to Miss Eliza M. Hogenbaugh, whose family are residents of Columbia county, Pennsylvania. They have three children living: Leander, born May 17, 1856, Albert, born March 8, 1864, and Royce, born April 17, 1873. They have also lost four children, all of whom died before reaching five years of age except Adele M., who was born October 13, 1857, and died June 27, 1879. In his political sentiments Mr. Hess is a republican.

GEORGE M. BERKLEY, farmer, Dixon, was born in Clinton county, Ohio, May 15, 1834, and was the son of Gideon and Mary (Bowring) Berkley. His father followed the trade of a millwright, and moved into Bureau county, Illinois, in 1836, and died there a year after. His mother died in Lee county in May 1881. His father was a lineal descendant of Sir. William Berkley, one of the governors of the province of Virginia, and both parents were natives of that state, but after their marriage removed to Ohio. The family removed to Lee county in 1844 and located in Sublette township, where Mr. Berkley was reared and educated. He also attended the normal school at Bloomington for a year. After growing to manhood he engaged in farming, but rushed to arms at the outbreak of the civil war, enlisting in April 1861, in Co. C, 13th Ill. Vols., and after serving faithfully for more than three years was mustered out of service in June 1864. He then returned home and resumed his agricultural pursuits, but in 1866 was offered the position of deputy sheriff, which he accepted and took up his residence in Dixon. In 1868 he was elected sheriff and reelected in 1870, 1872 and 1874, holding the office for eight years. He then purchased the farm in Dixon township on which he now resides. He was first married July 4, 1860, to Miss Minnie M. Douglass, a daughter of John L. Douglass, of Sublette, who was born in Genesee county, New York, in 1837. She died April 10, 1865, leaving one child, Minnie D., who was born November 4, 1864. He was again married September 20, 1868, to Miss Jane Adams, a native of Worcester, Massachusetts, but then residing at Sublette. They have three children:

Daisy A., born September 30, 1871; Imo, February 23, 1873, and Maud, May 4, 1877. Mr. Berkley is a supporter of the republican party, and his repeated elections to a responsible position attest the esteem and confidence in which he is held by his fellow-citizens.

HENRY C. HIGGINS, Dixon, joint proprietor with his brother, Thomas Higgins, in the Dixon Gas Works, was born in Ireland, December 18, 1848, and is the son of Thomas and Mary (Gannon) Higgins. His parents came to the United States when he was five years of age, and settled at Freehold, New Jersey, where he was reared and educated. In 1864 he came to Illinois and engaged in farming in Whitesides county, and remained there until about 1870 when he became interested in contracts upon the Baltimore & Ohio and Pittsburg, Ft. Wayne & Chicago railroads, and continued in this line of business until 1876, when he commenced the erection of gas works in different towns, which business he still carries on. He has made his headquarters at Dixon since 1876, the works there being the first built by him. Mr. Higgins is a democrat, but broad and liberal in his views, and is a young man of much enterprise and energy.

JAMES W. REARDON, Dixon, was born in Manchester, England, September 5, 1829, and is the son of Hobbs and Margaret (Cunningham) Reardon. His father entered the British army in 1800 as a volunteer, and was shortly after made an ensign. He participated in the campaign on the Spanish peninsula which resulted in the complete defeat of Marshal Soult, of the French army, by the Duke of Wellington. He was in almost every battle fought in that campaign, among others those of Vittoria and Corunna. After the overthrow of Bonaparte he was on duty at St. Helena for some time during the confinement of that great chieftain. He was still in the service at the time of his death, which occurred in 1847 in the north of Ireland. James W. Reardon, when a little over two years of age, was sent to live with an uncle in Tipperary, Ireland, and remained there until twenty-one years old, when he came to America. He soon after came to Lee county, and becoming acquainted with Gov. Charters, he, at his suggestion, decided to make his home here, and with the exception of several trips to Europe he has since been a continuous resident. In 1863 he recruited a company for the 69th Ill. Vols., of which he became captain. After serving some three months he was mustered out, their term of service having expired. He was married in County Waterford, Ireland, in 1860, to Miss Alicia J. Stokes, and has two children: Clifford C., aged twenty, and Annie S., aged fourteen years.

HARRIET E. GARRISON, physician, Dixon, was born in Dixon township, and is the daughter of William and Amelia (Omen) Garrison. Her father is a farmer, and resides in Nachusa township. Dr. Garrison

was partly educated at the Dixon public school, and partly at Rock River Seminary, at Mount Morris, Ogle county, Illinois. After leaving school she entered the Women's Medical College, at Chicago, from which she graduated in 1876, and at once entered upon the practice of her profession at Dixon. She is a member of the regular school of medicine, and has met with gratifying success in her career as a physician.

ALEXANDER CHARTERS, deceased, was a native of Belfast, Ireland, where he was born July 7, 1800. He was the son of Alexander and Eleanor (Mackey) Charters. He was reared and educated in his native city, and when sixteen years of age came to America and located in New York city, where he had two brothers established in business as linen importers. He entered their store, and in the course of time was made a partner, the firm name being J. A. Charters & Co. In 1838 he retired from business and removed to Dixon, where he purchased a section of land unsurpassed by any in the state for natural beauty and fertility. He erected a house on a bluff of Rock river, from which views can be obtained of the surrounding country for many miles, and abounding in scenery of the most lovely and picturesque description. Here he exercised an unbounded hospitality, and his genial yet dignified address, and imposing personal appearance, well entitled him to the appellation of "Governor" Charters, by which he was so long and so widely known. Many of the political and literary celebrities of our own and other lands have met a warm welcome beneath his hospitable roof, among whom may be mentioned William Cullen Bryant and Margaret Fuller Ossoli. His death occurred September 18, 1878, and he was laid to rest among the scenes he loved so well, amid the sincere regrets of the multitude of friends by whom he was so loved and honored. He was married in 1827, to Miss Ellen Boomer, of Belfast, who died in New York in 1832. His only son, James B. Charters, is now the able and popular county judge for Lee county.

HENRY C. BROOKNER, farmer, South Dixon, is a native of Hanover, where he was born in 1827. He is the son of George H. and Mary (Engel) Brookner. He came to America when eighteen years of age, and located at Dixon. After attending school for some time he learned the trade of a carpenter, at which he worked until 1849, when he removed to St. Louis, but soon returned to Dixon, and continued working at his trade until the spring of 1859, when he was employed by the Illinois Central railroad to superintend the building of bridges upon their line. He remained with this company for about ten years,

and then entered the employ of the Indianapolis & St. Louis railroad in the same capacity, remaining with them some eight years. During this time he purchased the farm he now occupies, and some two years ago moved upon it and engaged in farming. Mr. Brookner was married in April, 1875, at Litchfield, Illinois, to Miss Emma R. Keithley, a daughter of Seth M. Keithley, an old resident of Litchfield. They have one child, May D., born February 21, 1876. Mr. Brookner is a republican, and a member of the Methodist Episcopal church.

E. H. AND D. B. RAYMOND, farmers, South Dixon, are the sons of Daniel and Lucy A. (Woodruff) Raymond. Their father was for many years a resident of Greene county, New York, where he carried on a farm, but removed to Michigan in 1833, and followed the same occupation there until his death, which occurred in 1845. The eldest of the brothers, E. H. Raymond, was born in Steuben county, New York, in 1821, and removed to Michigan with his father. Upon the death of the latter he carried on farming operations in Michigan until 1865, in connection with his brother, but in that year he removed to Illinois and settled in South Dixon, Lee county, where he has since resided. He has no family. D. B. Raymond was born in Lenawee county, Michigan, in 1833, where he was reared and educated, but came to Lee county with his brother in 1865. He was married in Michigan in the year 1860, to Miss Maria S. Clark, a native of Berkshire county, Massachusetts, and their union has resulted in three children: Daniel E., aged twenty, Agnus C., aged eighteen, and Florence M., aged thirteen. He is a thorough-going republican, and a member of the Presbyterian church.

HARVEY E. WILLIAMS, farmer, was born in Onondaga county, New York, in 1817. His parents were Abijah and Lucy (Edwards) Williams, and his father followed farming and died in Onondaga county in 1871. Mr. Williams was reared and educated in his native county, and when grown to manhood commenced taking contracts upon public works in the State of New York. In 1852 he came to Illinois, having a contract on the Northwestern railroad, and the following year took a similar contract upon the Illinois Central railroad, and remained upon this road until its completion. He purchased his present farm in South Dixon in 1857, and has ever since been engaged in farming. He was married in 1843, to Miss Wealthy E. Cropsey, in Madison county, New York. Three children were the result of this marriage, of whom two survive: Comelia A., who is the wife of John A. Greene, of Morrison, Whitesides county, Illinois, and Ella C., who resides with her parents. A third daughter, Emma, was the wife of A. C. McAllister, of Morrison, Illinois, but died in April 1875, leaving one child, a daughter. Politically Mr. Williams is a member of the democratic party.



BENJAMIN W. HARNISH, farmer, Palmyra, was born in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, December 21, 1830, and is the son of Michael G. and Elizabeth (Warfel) Harnish. His father is a farmer, and both are still living and reside in Lancaster county. Mr. Harnish received his education in his native county and was a farmer there for many years. In January, 1875, he came west and settled in Carroll county, Illinois. After residing there for three years he removed to Nebraska, where he remained until 1880, when he came back to Illinois and located on a farm in Palmyra township. He was first married in 1856, to Miss Mary B. Hess, of Pennsylvania, who died previous to his removal from that state. There are four children by this marriage, all of whom reside with their father, the eldest being Henry, aged twenty-three years; Michael is sixteen, Samuel fourteen, and Elizabeth eleven years of age. He was married a second time in 1875, to Mrs. Catharine (Klein) Leonard. Mr. Harnish is strongly republican in his political views.

ROBERT J. DRYNAN, farmer, Palmyra, is a native of Canada, where he was born June 12, 1845, and is the son of William and Elizabeth J. (McMurtry) Drynan. His father was born in Edinburgh, Scotland, and was a ship-carpenter by trade, though farming was his occupation during the latter part of his life. He died in Canada in 1851, and his widow was married in 1853, to Mr. Johnstone, a clergyman, and removed the same year to Lyndon, Whitesides county, where Mr. Johnstone preached for some three years and where he died in 1857. Mrs. Johnstone is still living and is a resident of Palmyra. Mr. Drynan came with his mother and step-father at the time of their removal to Illinois, and in 1855 settled in the town of Palmyra, where he has ever since resided. His principal occupation has been running threshing and corn-shelling machines. He was married September 6, 1867, to Miss Rachel A. Delp, a native of Pennsylvania, but at that time residing in Whitesides county. They have seven children living: Willie A., born May 14, 1868; Otis E., born September 1, 1869; Emma E., born May 15, 1871; Gertie M., born January 20, 1873; Fremont R., born January 23, 1876; Grace E., born December 15, 1878; Leone E., born January 20, 1881. Politically Mr. Drynan is a thorough republican.

FLETCHER SEAVEY, farmer, Palmyra, is a native of Sandwich, New Hampshire, where he was born September 2, 1839, and is the son of Asa and Ruth (Ricker) Seavey. His father was also born in New Hampshire, and for many years was a farmer in that state, but in 1853 he came west and settled in Lee county, bringing his family from the east in the spring of 1854. He was carrying on a farm in Palmyra until 1877, when he purchased a farm in Ogle county, to which he re-

moved and where he still resides. Fletcher Seavey has been farming on his own account for the past thirteen years, and has recently purchased and removed to the farm of the late David A. Holly. He enlisted in the summer of 1864, in Co. D, 140th Ill. Vols., and was honorably discharged after six months' service. Mr. Seavey was married November 9, 1862, to Miss Eveline C. Eastwood, a native of Palmyra, and they have six children: Harry C., born January 17, 1864; Fred A., born February 19, 1866; Eda B., born December 30, 1867; Allen E., born March 24, 1870; Clyde L., born August 10, 1874, and Ruth M., born June 6, 1877. In his political sentiments Mr. Seavey is strongly republican.

WILLIAM W. TILTON, farmer, Palmyra, was born in New Hampshire on July 15, 1817, and is the son of Jesse and Mary (Fifield) Tilton. His father was of English descent, but was a native of New Hampshire, and in his youth was engaged in tanning and shoemaking, but afterward became a farmer and died about 1845. W. W. Tilton acquired his education in his native state, and when grown up engaged in farming, but came west in 1838, arriving in Dixon July 13, just two days prior to his twenty-first birthday. He located in Palmyra township, and having learned the trade of shoemaking in the east, he engaged in that business. At the election in the fall for state officials he acted as clerk, and his recollection is that fourteen votes were polled. After working at his trade for about four years he turned his attention to farming, which he has followed since. He was also for a number of years engaged in buying and selling stock, and was connected for some time with the late E. B. Stiles, in this business. He was married on November 3, 1843, to Mrs. Eliza (Martin) Hubbard, a native of Sandwich, New Hampshire, who came to Lee county with her brother, Jacob Martin (lately deceased), in 1836. They came all the way in a buggy, the trip taking a period of five weeks. She was married in 1833, to Oliver A. Hubbard, also a resident of New Hampshire, who had come to Lee county in the spring of 1836, where she rejoined him a few months later. Mr. Hubbard died September 16, 1840. M. D. Hubbard, still residing in Palmyra, is the only living issue of this marriage. Two children resulted from her union to Mr. Tilton: Francis J., born August 15, 1846, who resides with his parents; and Hortense L., born on January 30, 1851, and married to Horace M. Gilbert, a resident of Palmyra. Mr. Tilton is a life-long democrat, and though contending against odds in the political struggles in which he has taken part, he has never faltered in his devotion to what he considers the true principles of government.

One of the most striking features of American institutions is the certainty with which any young man of integrity, energy and intelli-

gence can achieve wealth and influence by his own efforts, unaided by any accidents of birth or position. Lincoln, Garfield, and many other brilliant and able men in various walks of life, have afforded notable examples of what can be done by untiring industry, sterling honesty and well-directed ability to overcome all adverse circumstances, and every county and every town all over our broad land will show instances of a similar character, differing only in kind and degree, and one of these is found in the career of the HON. ABELAH POWERS, of Palmyra township. He was born in Hampshire county, Massachusetts, December 16, 1814, and is the son of Joseph and Sarah (Powers) Powers. His father was a farmer, and was descended from a long line of New England ancestry. He had four children, of whom three are still living, one son, Joseph Warren Powers, being still a resident of Massachusetts; Abijah Powers and a daughter, Mrs. Allen, have lived for many years in Palmyra township; the other child, a daughter, died in infancy. In 1838 Mr. Joseph Powers and his son Abijah determined to leave the old Bay State and seek for more abundant returns for their labor on the western prairies. After the usual privations and trials of such a journey in those days they arrived at Dixon's ferry, where they remained several months, but in the fall of 1838 they located in Palmyra township and engaged in farming, and here Mr. Joseph Powers died, April 28, 1853. His son has been a continuous resident of the township since his first settlement, in 1838, and for many years has been one of the largest and most successful farmers in the Rock river valley. He has also been extensively engaged in the breeding and sale of thoroughbred cattle, with gratifying results. He now owns about 900 acres of land, a portion of which lies in Whitesides county. Mr. Powers has always been a popular man and was elected justice of the peace at an early day; was also commissioner of public highways for a number of years; has served four terms as supervisor for his town; was elected a member of the state legislature in the fall of 1876, and has been president of the Farmers' Mutual Fire Insurance Company, of Palmyra, for the past fifteen years. In 1839 he returned to Massachusetts, where he was married, September 8 of that year, to Miss Amanda Sprout, a native of Worcester, Massachusetts, who is still living. They have had six children, five of whom survive: Elvira A., born November 30, 1842, was married to Charles Eckles in 1868, and is a resident of Marshalltown, Iowa; Helen C., born August 21, 1845, married to Anson E. Thummel in 1868, and lives in Palmyra; Mary A., born October 30, 1848, married to James Nickerson in 1870, and resides in Chicago; Franklin W., born September 13, 1851, was married to Miss Mary Miller in 1872, and lives in Whitesides county; Austin A., born October 18, 1857, was married to Miss Adela Tallman January 6, 1881. He resides with his

father. Mr. Powers has been a republican from the formation of the party, and is a member of the Congregational church.

CHARLES H. HUGHES, farmer, Palmyra, was born in Columbia county, Pennsylvania, April 13, 1846, and is the son of Ellwood and Elizabeth (Hill) Hughes. He was brought up and educated in his native county principally, but also attended for a time the Missionary Institute at Selin's Grove, Pennsylvania. He removed to Lee county in 1868 and engaged in farming, which he still carries on; he has also dealt considerably in cattle and horses, and his especial pride at present is a fine bay stallion, a cousin of the celebrated queen of the turf, Maud S, and Mr. Hughes feels certain that at some not distant day his horse, or at least some descendant of his, will win a name not entirely unworthy of their distinguished relative. In July 1881, in company with O. T. Melick, he embarked in the coal and salt trade at Dixon, under the firm name of Hughes & Melick, and is making preparations at present to engage in the real-estate, loan and banking business at Peterson, Kansas, in company with his brother, Ellwood C. Hughes. He was married November 17, 1868, to Miss Hannah E. Williams, daughter of Mark Williams, Esq., of Palmyra township, and they have but one child living, Adessa, aged twelve years. In his political views Mr. Hughes is a republican.

Having organized and drilled the Chicago Light Guards, the first company in Chicago that acquired any reputation, his services were sought by the authorities at Springfield at the breaking out of the war. There was a great lack of knowledge of military matters at this time, but what Col. WYMAN possessed, combined with a mind of wonderful activity and business experience, made his services of great value, and caused the 13th Ill. Inf. to select him as their colonel, and Gov. Yates to commission him on April 20, 1861. The 13th was a magnificent regiment, filled to the maximum, and composed almost wholly of young men who knew and appreciated the issues of the struggle before them. Wyman realized the great charge that was intrusted to him in the command of this regiment, and stated to a member of the same as he looked over the body of 1,000 on drill, "I never felt before so much the need of being a christian as I do now. I am responsible for the lives and welfare of these men, and I do not believe that any man in his own strength is equal to so great a responsibility." His experience as a railway superintendent fitted him for the very important duty of forwarding supplies to an army campaigning a long way from its base of supplies, which he did from Rolla for the armies doing service in southwest Missouri under the command of Gens. Lyon, Fremont and Hunter respectively. This duty he did so well that his reputation spread through the western army, and when some months after Gen. Steele



desired to embark his division on steamboats at Helena, Arkansas, to join Gen. Sherman's campaign against Vicksburg, he sent for Col. Wyman to assist him. The general and the colonel disagreed as to the number of steamboats required, but the latter in his positive, decided way said he could have all the transportation, artillery and horses loaded on his number of boats by five o'clock that day, and he did, to the surprise of the general and his regular army staff.

It was during the campaign referred to above that Col. Wyman lost his life. It was the campaign under Gen. Sherman against the outside defenses of Vicksburg at Chickasaw Bayou. He here had the first opportunity to show his capacity for active service. It was here that he and his regiment were under fire for the first time. He had shown marked abilities in the marching and care of men; had no superior as a drill-master, and no man had more perfect control of a regiment than he had of his. The 13th was the old regiment placed in Gen. F. P. Blair's brigade, composed of new recruits, to act as a safety-valve. The 13th always had the post of honor, which is the advance, which gave Col. Wyman the lead that he never relinquished, and really commanded and maneuvered the brigade in the engagements referred to above until he was killed.

In the preliminary skirmishing Wyman's bravery was put to the test, but it was pure gold, like that of an old veteran. He placed the battery, told the men how and where to shoot, and encouraged the men by his own fearlessness and utter disregard of danger. The clear, bell-like tones of their colonel's voice to the regiment, now under fire for the first time, had the effect of magic upon their spirits, somewhat disconcerted by the shriek of rebel shells bursting in close proximity to their position. His commands were obeyed with alacrity, and his smiling face as he was quietly seated on old Jerry's back imparted courage to his men, and they would have charged upon any rebel position if he but commanded.

The second day found Blair's brigade in position to fire upon a confederate fort, while Morgan L. Smith charged it from another direction. Col. Wyman walked up to the edge of the fallen timber lying between the two positions, took out his field-glass and coolly surveyed the enemy's position; during all of which time the rebel sharpshooters were popping away at him, and often shooting very near his person, as we could see by the falling of leaves and cutting of vines. Not until he had finished his survey did he lower his glass, and as he walked back to his regiment he said, "The bullet is not moulded that will kill me," and ordered the company commander nearest to him to send six of the best shots in his company and kill a certain sharpshooter, with a globe-sighted rifle, that had been firing at him.

Lieut.-Col. Gorgas was ordered down to the center of the regiment to give the order to rise and fire, and then to order that they lie down while another regiment immediately in the rear should do the same thing. Col. Gorgas was slow about executing the order for some reason, and Wyman becoming impatient of the delay stepped a few paces down the line and in front, and gave the order himself, retiring as he did so, so that he should not be in front of the men when they fired. Immediately after he passed the right of the regiment he was shot. He was stooping down that the regiment in the rear might fire over our heads, when he was hit under the right arm, the bullet passing entirely through his body and lodging in his clothing on his left side. Sergt. Pinkham, of Co. A, was the first to reach his side and unbutton his coat, and the writer was the next. The bullet hole through his shirt was in front of his shoulder, and led me to believe that that was the wounded part and not necessarily fatal, and I was on the point of saying, "Colonel, this will make a brigadier of you;" but he looked so pale and death-like it was not uttered, but instead, "Colonel, I do not think this wound is dangerous, it is through your shoulder." "You are mistaken, Harry," he replied. "This whole side is paralyzed already; it is all over." We laid him down behind a stump, to protect him from the bullets that were now coming in thick and fast, and in a few seconds he was in a stupor. He was taken from the field and revived by stimulants for a few minutes, during which time he conversed about his family and private affairs. He uttered no word of complaint nor gave expression to any signs of regret at his lot, but on the contrary, met his fate with a smile. The only question of Col. Wyman's making a brilliant record as a soldier was the one whether he would live through an engagement. His fault was rashness. What he did, he did it with all his might. Every soldier in his regiment admired and loved him. From him they could borrow a dollar when all other resources failed. His name had been sent to the senate for confirmation as a brigadier by the president, and in a few weeks more, but for his untimely end, he would have been in command of a brigade.

P. H. SCHOCK, farmer, Palmyra, was born on February 4, 1814, in Northampton county, Pennsylvania, and is the son of Henry and Magdalena (Beck) Schock. His father was a miller, and also carried on a farm, and died in Pennsylvania about 1835. Mr. Schock was educated in his native county, and when old enough assisted his father in the mill. In 1840 he engaged in mercantile business, which he followed for about six years, after which he became a farmer, and continued in that occupation until 1850, when he removed to Illinois, and settled at

Como, Whitesides county. The following year he came to Prairieville, Lee county, and purchased a farm, on which he has since resided. He was married in Northampton county, Pennsylvania, on November 27, 1841, to Miss Louisa Eyer. She died December 30, 1872, leaving four children surviving: Josephine, born November 11, 1843, who is the wife of Charles W. Marston, and resides at Lawrence, Kansas; William, born January 21, 1846, and a resident of Salt Lake City, Utah; Howard E., born March 31, 1859, and married in 1879, to Miss Ina Kelsey, of Sterling, Whitesides county. They reside on the old homestead. Florence L., born October 19, 1862, also resides at home. Mr. Schock has been twice elected supervisor of his town on the republican ticket, and has filled almost every other town office.

DANIEL REICHART, farmer, Palmyra, was born in Northampton county, Pennsylvania, on April 9, 1829, and is the son of Samuel and Catharine (Weidman) Reichart. His father died in Pennsylvania in 1852, but his mother is still living in that state. After leaving school Mr. Reichart learned the carpenter's trade, and also farmed considerably, and in 1853 came to the west, but returned home during the following winter. In 1854 he came to Palmyra township and settled permanently, and still owns the original eighty acres of land on which he commenced to farm, but which has since increased to over two hundred acres. He was married January 1, 1853, to Miss Elizabeth J. Kressler, also a native of Northampton county, Pennsylvania, and they have eight children living: Susan F., born May 13, 1854, married to Albertus Miller, and resides in Cherokee, Iowa; Job, born June 21, 1855, also a resident of Cherokee; Elizabeth, born May 28, 1857, and married to William F. Seavey, who resides in Palmyra; Samuel, born January 25, 1859; Sara, born May 8, 1860; Minnie, born October 30, 1865; Edith J., born November 3, 1866, and Carrie C., born September 10, 1868, all reside with their parents. In his political affiliations Mr. Reichart is a member of the democratic party.

HIRAM P. PARKS, farmer, Palmyra, is one of the earliest settlers of the town. He was born in Franklin county, New York, on August 29, 1808, and is the son of Aaron and Rebecca (Prescott) Parks. His father was a farmer, and died some twenty years ago. Mr. Parks was reared as a farmer in his native county, and removed to Illinois in 1836, locating in Dixon, where he remained two years, after which he bought a farm in Palmyra township, where he has ever since resided. He and his sons own some six hundred acres of the finest land in the county, and he has seen his township progress from an almost unbroken prairie, inhabited by some half dozen families, to its present state of development as one of the best cultivated and most fertile sections in the west, and settled by as enterprising and intelligent a class of citizens as can be

found within the borders of our own or any other country. Mr. Parks was married in the State of New York, in December 1829, to Miss Martha Moon, a native of Otsego county, New York, whose parents were natives of Vermont. They have been married more than half a century, and are still in the enjoyment of good health, and active and vigorous both mentally and physically. They have eight children, the eldest of whom is Mary, born July 24, 1833, and the wife of John Lawrence, of Palmyra; Eunice H., born February 25, 1836, is married to William Ayres, and resides in Iowa; Rebecca D., born April 13, 1838, is the wife of Thomas Ayres, a resident of Palmyra; Wayne H., born August 24, 1840, is a farmer and resides in Palmyra; Robert B., born December 13, 1843, is a resident of Pennsylvania; Henry A., born January 15, 1846, resides in Ogle county, Illinois; Frederick N., born September 22, 1849, is a farmer and resides in Palmyra; Abner H. was born in Palmyra township on February 19, 1853, and has always resided in his native town. He was married May 5, 1875, to Miss Mary Drew, of Ogle county, Illinois, who died February 21, 1881. He resides at the old homestead. Mr. Parks has always been an earnest republican, and he and his wife are members of the Baptist church of Dixon, the latter being the only survivor of the original founders of that church.

JAMES L. MCGINNIS, farmer, Palmyra, was born in New York city on August 22, 1831, and is the son of Stewart and Mary (Law) McGinnis. His father was a very skillful machinist, and died, while James was a lad, in Louisiana, whither he had gone to superintend the erection of machinery upon a large sugar plantation. His widow being left in reduced circumstances, and with four young children to support, decided to accompany her father, David Law, and his family, to Illinois, and they arrived in Dixon in September 1839. During the following winter they suffered greatly from sickness and privation. In connection with Capt. Hugh Graham they purchased the claim to some 700 acres of land lying along Rock river, their portion of which is still owned by the family. James L. McGinnis was educated in the primitive schools of the neighborhood and at Dixon, and when grown engaged in farming. Soon after the discovery of gold in California he went to that state, and after remaining there several years he returned to Palmyra township, and resumed his agricultural pursuits, which he has since followed. He was married on March 12, 1861, to Miss Mary B. Becker, a native of Reading, Pennsylvania, but whose parents were old settlers of Palmyra. They have nine children living: William C., born June 22, 1862; Ella, born March 12, 1864; Mabel, born August 15, 1865; James F., born May 3, 1867, Keziah, born March 11, 1869; Mark E., born November 12, 1870; Harry,



born June 20, 1872; Oliver, born August 17, 1874, and Paul, born June 15, 1878, all of whom reside with their parents. Mr. McGinnis is a republican in politics, and a member of the Presbyterian church.

WILLIAM G. MCGINNIS, the brother of James L., is also a native of the city of New York, where he was born on September 19, 1833. The history of his earlier days is like that of his brother, and with the exception of three years' service in Co. A, 13th Ill. Vols., into which he enlisted on the outbreak of the rebellion, his entire life since he was six years of age has been passed in Palmyra township, where he is engaged in farming. He has never married, but his mother and grandmother reside with him. The latter, Mrs. Keziah (Hillis) Law, will be just one hundred years of age in July 1882, and is undoubtedly the oldest person living in Lee county.

Among the successful farmers of Ashton township may be mentioned Peter L. Brecunier, born in Huntingdon county, Pennsylvania, February 14, 1834. He was reared to the sturdy occupation of a tiller of the soil, receiving but a limited education in the subscription schools of his native state. In the spring of 1849 he with his father's family started for Illinois, and reached Franklin Grove, Lee county. May 12, that year they rented the farm now owned by J. C. Lahman. During the same year they purchased the land on which a part of the village of Franklin Grove now stands. This, however, they soon sold, and purchased land in the southwest corner of Ashton township. Peter L., the subject of this sketch, purchased for himself a farm of 205 acres in Sec. 31, T. 22, R. 11. This is one of the model farms of Ashton township, and indicates that its owner is a man of thrift, industry and enterprise. In 1874 he added to the beauty of his home by erecting a fine brick residence at the cost of \$4,000. Besides farming he is now engaged in stock raising, giving some attention to grades. February 22, 1863, he was united in marriage to Miss Susan M., daughter of Jacob and Hannah (Foreman) Riddlesbarger, Esq. She was born in Franklin county, Pennsylvania. They are the parents of one child, Quinby A., born August 29, 1867. Mr. Brecunier's parents both died here and were buried in the cemetery at the German Baptist church near Nachusa.

THOMAS PADDOCK, retired farmer, is a native of Ohio, and was born August 14, 1814. He, with his parents, Ebenezer and Nancy (Ferguson) Paddock, left Ohio at an early day, and removed to Vigo county, Indiana, where our subject was united in marriage, in 1835, to Miss Nancy Payne, a native of Vigo county. In 1837 Mr. Paddock left Indiana, and removed to Ogle county, where he made a claim, and

thus became one of the pioneers of that county, whose nearest market was Chicago, or Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where he hauled his produce many years with teams and wagon. He sold his produce for a price that now would not be considered sufficient to pay the expense of such a trip. But Mr. Paddock made the best use of his time and means, and has by industry and saving made a good property, now owning 340 acres of land in Lee and Ogle counties. April 28, 1879, his home was broken up for the first since it was established, by the death of his noble wife. Since then he has made two or three moves, but is now permanently settled on his farm in Ashton township, and is enjoying the rest needed after a life of hard labor. His children are William H., now in Ogle county, and Jefferson, who died in the south during the war; Eliza J., wife of Joseph Cummins; Rebecca A., wife of George Brown; Leathy, wife of Capt. J. L. Frost, of Ashton township; Rosella, at home with her father, and Lorilla, wife of Enoch Self.

JOHN C. BOWERS, deceased, came from Germany with his wife, Margaret (Fogle) Bowers, and settled in Somerset county, Pennsylvania, and there had born to them three children, one of whom is Lawrence Bowers, born August 19, 1829. He was reared on a farm, without the benefit of free schools, and but very little subscription school privileges. In 1853 he came to Lee county in search of a place to make his future home. After looking over the remaining government land he decided it was too low and wet, and returned to Pennsylvania, but the next spring came back, and purchased eighty acres in Sec. 19, T. 22, R. 11, paying \$8 per acre for the same land he could have had the year before for \$1.50. Land rose rapidly in value after the advent of the railroad through this section. Some years later he bought an additional 120 acres. In the fall of 1865 he married Miss Dianna Fogle, a native of Somerset county, Pennsylvania. They have six children: William C., Malinda, Hettie, George W., Harry G. and Nina May. Mr. Bowers' parents came to Lee county, where they died, and are buried in the Ashton cemetery. His brother and sister are now making their home with him.

KINCAID, son of Joshua and Elizabeth (Swisher) Runyan, farmer and stock raiser, Ashton, was born in Lycoming county, Pennsylvania, January 19, 1838. He was brought up on a farm, and with but a limited means of education, though by much reading and careful observation he has gained what might be called a good business education. In the spring of 1861 he came to Lee county, and hired out to work on a farm. This he followed till the winter of 1865, when he enlisted in Co. K, 3d Ill. Cav. After the close of the war, and a tour among the Indians through northern Dakota to the British possessions, he

was honorably discharged, and returned to Lee county. January 19, 1869, he married Miss Charity, daughter of Daniel and Christena (King) Brecunier, and in the spring of the same year began as a renter on the farm he now owns. In the fall of 1874 he bought the farm and became permanently located, and is now engaged in farming and stock raising on Sec. 31, T. 22, R. 11. His parents were born, lived and died in the State of Pennsylvania. Mr. Runyan is of the opinion that his ancestors are of French origin, the name far back in its history being De Runyan. Since the above writing Mrs. Kincaid Runyan departed this life, November 17, 1881, after an illness of about five weeks. She bore her long suffering with great patience, and leaves, besides her almost broken-hearted husband, a large circle of friends and relatives to mourn their loss. She was a citizen of Franklin from childhood, and a member of one of the best families in the county. Her early death is severely felt by her grief-stricken friends.

HARLOW E. CHADWICK, son of Ambrose and Sarah Chadwick, merchant, Ashton, was born near Rochester, New York, June 11, 1840. When still an infant his parents moved to Oneida county. In 1856 the family removed to Iowa, and remained one year, after which they removed to Bradford township, in Lee county. Mr. Chadwick is one of the firm of Bly & Chadwick, engaged in business in Ashton in 1879, and is quite a prominent citizen. He conducted the county farm several years. August 14, 1862, he enlisted in the 75th Ill. Inf., was with the regiment one year, and was then transferred to the veteran reserves. Was discharged May 20, 1865. Is a member of Odd-Fellows' Lodge, No. 422, and also a member of the Presbyterian church, with which he united in 1879. Was married in 1866, to Miss Esther P. Starks, a native of Lee county.

DAVID SANFORD, postmaster, Ashton, son of Salmon and Elizabeth Sanford, was born near Dayton, Ohio, December 25, 1820, where he resided until eighteen years of age, when he went to Noble county, Indiana, and resided nine years. Then he came to Ogle county, Illinois. In the spring of 1850 he went to California, and remained until 1857 in the gold regions, then returned to Ogle county, where he remained until 1862. In that year he enlisted in the 75th Ill. Inf. and served until the fall of 1863. In that year he came to Lee county. In 1867 he was appointed postmaster at Ashton, and since that time has officiated in that capacity. Married, in 1863, Mrs. Mehetabel Oneil, a native of Ohio. Before his return from the army he was promoted to a captaincy of Co. G, and is now familiarly called "Cap."

HENRY BLY, merchant, Ashton, son of Thomas R. and Nancy Bly, was born in Chenango county, New York, June 9, 1827, where he resided until eighteen years of age; at that time he came to Light

House Point, Ogle county, where he was engaged in farming until 1850. In that year he went with a party of wealth-hunters to California, crossing the plains in a wagon drawn by oxen. While there he traveled through a large portion of the mining district, and encountered a great many difficulties and dangers that beset the paths of those hardy, daring men who cast their lot in the wilds of California. Was in that state fifteen months; returned by way of New York. In 1857 was elected supervisor of Ashton township, and held the office eleven years. In 1853 was elected justice of the peace, and with the exception of a few years has held the office ever since. Is a member of Odd-Fellows and Masonic orders. Was married in July 1848, to Miss Anna J. Wood, a native of Canada.

MELVIN HARDESTY, hotel-keeper, Ashton, son of Richard and Sarah Hardesty, was born in Ogle county, Illinois, in 1844. His father came to Ogle county in 1835, and was one of the pioneers of that county. In 1862 Mr. Hardesty removed to Ashton, and for ten years has been engaged in carriage and house painting. In 1879 he bought a hotel, now known as the Clifton house, and since that time has been conducting it in addition to his other business. He was married in 1872 to Miss Mary Beard, a native of Brooklyn, New York. In 1865 he enlisted in Co. H, of the 140th Ill. Inf., and served six months.

EDWIN M. BLAIR, farmer and stock raiser, Amboy, was born in Oneida county, New York, November 23, 1826. His parents, James and Fanny (Hamilton) Blair, were born and reared in Massachusetts. His father was hotel-keeping in Jamestown, Chautauqua county, New York, when in 1838 (the date is erroneously given in the township history a year earlier) he quit the state, and coming here made a claim on the N.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  and half of the S.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 29, T. 20, R. 10, besides somewhat more land than this which we cannot describe. This subject now owns 200 acres of the original claim. In 1839 the rest of the family, including the mother, the two daughters, Elmina and Caroline, and four sons, Winthrop H., Edwin M., William W. and Charles L. joined him. The latter was drowned in Inlet creek in the autumn of 1850. Winthrop resides in Marion township, and William at Sandwich, De Kalb county. The eldest son, James R., stayed behind in the east until about 1846; he then also came and lived here, where he died in 1857. Mr. Blair was married December 24, 1854, to Miss Juliet, daughter of Jacob J. Conderman, of Marion township, who removed there from Steuben county, New York, in 1851. Her death occurred in 1873. She was the mother of four children: Ida (dead), Frank, William J. and Ruth C. Mr. Blair was married again



on September 24, 1877, to Mrs. Ruth M. Marsh (Crowder), widow of Edmund Marsh. She had by her first marriage the following children: Nettie, Dessa, William (dead), and Albert W. Mr. Blair has held office most of the time since the township was organized. He has been deputy sheriff one term, school trustee three terms, road commissioner many years, and also assessor. He is a republican, and was a member of the Amboy lodge of Odd-Fellows before it lapsed, in the time of the war. Mrs. Blair belongs to the United Brethren church, but was formerly a Methodist.

ADONIRAM J. TOMPKINS, farmer, Amboy, son of Nathaniel S. and Sally (Reynolds) Tompkins, was born in New York in 1831. As early as Mr. Tompkins can remember, his father, who was a blacksmith, moved to Ohio and settled on a farm, where he followed his new calling, and worked also at his trade. Mr. Tompkins learned the carpenter's trade, and early in 1856 came to Dunleith, Illinois, and the following spring, obtaining employment from the Illinois Central railroad company, worked six months as foreman. After that he had charge of the carpenter work on station buildings between Dunleith and Wapella until about 1873, when his superintendence was extended to Centralia. In the spring of 1879 he quit the service of the company, and moved to his present farm, about two miles west of Amboy. Mr. Tompkins was married in 1858, to Miss Mary A. Smith, of New York, by whom he has three children: Walter, Elma, and Stella. Both parents are communicants in the Baptist church. He has been road commissioner of the township, and was alderman of Amboy five years. In politics he is a republican.

J. HARVEY IVES, senior member of the firm of Ives & Slauter, lumber and coal dealers, Amboy, was born in Berkshire county, Massachusetts, December 29, 1827. He was the youngest son of John and Hannah (Ford) Ives, whose ancestors settled in New Haven, Connecticut, in the early days of the colony. Mr. Ives obtained a common school education, and was reared to agricultural pursuits. At the age of seventeen he engaged in carpenter work, and for twenty-five years that was his only business. On May 12, 1852, he was married, in West Stockbridge, Massachusetts, to Miss Antoinette I. Tobey, of that place, who was born March 2, 1833. They have reared one daughter, Clara, now Mrs. Willis Bristol, of Denver, Colorado. In December, 1856, Mr. Ives and his family removed from the east and settled in Amboy, where he continued working at his trade until July 1, 1870, when he embarked in his present business in partnership with D. W. Slauter, under the firm name of Ives & Slauter. He has been elected alderman of the city three times, and is a republican politically. Himself, wife and daughter are members of the Congregational church.

ARTHUR P. WASSON, farmer, Amboy, son of Lorenzo D. and Aurelia (Gaylord) Wasson, was born in Amboy township, May 3, 1849. In his father's family there were six children: Henrietta, Benjamin (dead), Arthur P., Audentia E., Marietta, and John C. (dead). Mr. Wasson was married February 22, 1872, to Miss Lizzie M. Sprague, daughter of James Sprague, an early settler of Putnam county. They have the following children: Oddy, Lorenzo D., Arthur Guy, and Winn. We append the following interesting sketch of the grandfather of our subject, his removal to the west in an early day, and settlement in Amboy township. It was furnished by Mrs. E. DeWolf:

BENJAMIN WASSON removed with his wife, formerly Elizabeth Hole, and five children, from Broome county, New York, to Illinois, in the fall of 1836. The entire journey was made with their own teams, and consumed forty days. They camped out most of the time after leaving New York, as they found that pleasanter than the hotel accommodations on the frontier at that time. For the comfort of his family he stopped first in Farmington, Fulton county, where a house was procurable. The same fall, with his eldest son, Lorenzo, he visited the Rock river country, and made woodland claims in Palestine Grove, and prairie claims a mile or two north. On the latter they erected, during the following year, a log house. When they had the body of it up, an oil-cloth carpet was stretched over the top for covering, and here the eldest daughter, Clara, not yet fifteen years old, kept house for her father and brother, while they cut the trees and converted them into puncheon for the floor, and shakes with which to cover the roof. When nightfall came, and the wolves began as usual to howl, the young girl used to seek shelter and safety in the covered wagon, drawing down the curtains closely all around, and waiting for the return of the men. This house, the first, I think, built on the prairie between Palestine and Franklin groves, was located about three-quarters of a mile northeast from the depot of the Illinois Central railroad, in the city of Amboy. Energy and perseverance were necessary to meet successfully the obstacles in the pathway of the early settlers, and these traits were prominent in the character of this pioneer. While the pine clapboards, glass, sash and all had to be brought from Chicago on wagons and sleds, in a very few years a new and more comfortable dwelling, with other farm buildings, surrounded the first rude home in the then far west. To this all the family removed from Farmington, in 1837, and here they lived unharmed through the perilous banditti times. The log house remained to welcome and give shelter to the families of relatives and friends who came, while they were building abodes for themselves. In this home the youngest

child and daughter, the writer hereof, was born in August 1839. Although no sign of entertainment ever hung beside the gate or door, the weary wayfarer was always cheerfully welcomed, and the question "Do you need dinner?" or supper, as the case might be, or "Are you hungry?" became a habit with the ever kind and careful mother of the household. In 1849 the California excitement induced the old gentleman to take his youngest son and cross the plains. From this journey he never returned, but died of shagress fever while on his way home in February 1851. The widow continued to live on the old place until near the end of 1863, when, to the hardships of pioneer life, and numerous added afflictions, her health gave way, and the old home was broken up. The mother followed the fortunes of the youngest child until May 18, 1874, when she was called from earth to paradise. The older children, Lorenzo D. Wasson, Dr. Harmon Wasson, and Roxy Emma, who became Mrs. Simon Badger, all died at Amboy in the prime of life. The surviving children are Mrs. Clara Backensto, of Iowa City, Iowa; Mr. Warren Wasson, of Carson City, Nevada, and Mrs. E. DeWolf, of Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The eldest grandson, Arthur P. Wasson, owns and lives on the old farm, while the remaining grandchildren and great-grandchildren are scattered from New York to Colorado and Nevada.

THOMAS BROWN. Franklin Grove, was born in Newport, Rhode Island, in 1820. He is the only son and youngest child of Thomas W. and Rebecca (Vial) Brown, whose family numbered six, five of whom are living. His paternal grandfather was a "revolutioner." His father was a tailor, and the same craft was learned by the son. In 1839 Mr. Brown came to Lee county, in company with Erastus DeWolf, and soon after made a claim. In 1840 he returned to his native state, and in April of the following year was married to Ruth Simpson. He then came back to Illinois. In 1855 Mr. Brown came to the village of Franklin Grove, having previously lived about ten years in Lee Center, at "Inlet." His family are Thomas W., Robert P., Mary E., Harriet, and Lottie. Mr. Brown is one of those men whose good memory and friendly, affable nature are indispensable in collecting matter for a work of this nature. He has lived here to see the great growth of this county, its prairies transformed into beautiful fields producing a wealth of golden grain, its towns and villages, churches and schools, scattered all over this beautiful land.

S. A. GRISWOLD, physician, Franklin Grove, was born in the State of New York, Ogdensburg, St. Lawrence county, in the year 1839, son of Justinian and Prudence S. (Dole) Griswold, both of Vermont. His

father, a teacher by profession, had a family of one son and one daughter; he died when our subject was two years old. The latter, while yet a lad, came with his mother to Lee Center; here he attended school, and as soon as qualified began teaching. In the spring of 1861 he enlisted in the 13th Ill. Inf., Co. A, Capt. Noble, 1st Lieut. Henry Dement. He had hardly learned the drill before he was made a hospital steward. He was in Missouri and Arkansas till he was mustered out, early in 1863. He then resumed the study of medicine, which he had but just begun before enlisting; in 1866 graduated from the Cincinnati Physio-Medical Institute. In 1864 Dr. Griswold came to Franklin Grove; January, 1867, he married Olive May, who died August 1873, leaving one son, DeWitt E., born April 30, 1869. Mr. Griswold is a republican and a Mason; for six years he has been a member of the town school board. In February of 1877 his mother died, aged seventy-three years, after several years of married life with her third husband, Elisha Pratt, an early settler in Lee county. The doctor is one of those men who are always ready to lend a helping hand to any enterprise which tends to benefit or build up the community in which he lives, and his long and successful business profession in this part of the county has won for him a great many true friends.

In writing the history of the early settlers of this township we find the REINHARTS worthy of honorable mention. They were natives of Germany, and came to Lee county, Illinois, in an early day. Andrew Reinhart was born in Hesse Cassel in 1843. He has by hard work, good management, and a close attention to business, with the help of an industrious and faithful wife, accumulated a large amount of property. His farm, about two and a half miles south of Franklin, contains over 300 acres, is one of the best in that part of the township, and is evidence of the thrift of its owner. Coming with his parents to Lee county when a small child, he was thus deprived of the advantages of an education except such as was afforded by the pioneer schools of the county. In June, 1868, he was united in marriage to Miss Catharine Hafenrichter, a native of New York, who was born March 7, 1845, and came to Illinois when about one year old. They are the parents of eight children, five of whom are living: Charlotte F., Anna C., Henry C., Elizabeth, and John F. Mr. Reinhart's parents, Crist and Christina Reinhart, are buried at Lee Center.

That some families are more certainly successful than others with the same advantages, and by economy and industry rise to prosperity and wealth, is certainly illustrated by the HANSENS. The two brothers, Henry and Harrison, are the pioneers of the family. They left their



native home near Bangor, Maine, in the fall of 1838, arriving at Franklin Grove in October, and soon after bought a claim of Erastus DeWolf, a man noted for his ambition to own every good piece of land in the county. The boys went to work on the principle that time is money, and that principle has characterized them through life. They went to farming and opening up their new home as soon as the means could be raised to make the start, hauling their wheat and pork to Chicago with ox-teams, and selling the former sometimes as low as forty cents per bushel, and the latter for two and a half cents per pound, and hauling back lumber or such other commodities as could not be dispensed with. These trips were made on an outlay of less than seventy-five cents in cash. For their milling they generally went to Aurora. In the fall of 1840 their father, Charles Hansen, with the rest of the family, came on and joined them in their new home. He soon bought a farm, the one where his son, S. C. Hansen, now lives. Here he lived till the time of his death, which occurred March 20, 1869, at the age of seventy-nine years. His wife died December 4, 1878, aged nearly eighty-nine years. They are buried in the cemetery at Franklin Grove, and a substantial monument marks their last resting place. He was the youngest of two brothers, Fredrick and Charles, whose paternal ancestor came from Saxony as an officer in the commissary department of Burgoyne's army in the time of the revolutionary war, and at the time of the surrender of that noted chieftain, when the choice was given the prisoners to be released on parol or join the Colonial ranks, he proposed that if Gen. Washington would assign to him the same position he held in the British army he would take the oath of allegiance to the American cause, and from that time he became forage master for Gen. Washington, and rendered very efficient service in that position till the close of the war. He was a Saxon-German, born and reared in wealth, being a son of a family of high rank and a learned officer of that proud nation. He died in the State of Maine, where he had married and reared his family. His eldest son, Fredrick, remained east, where he reared a family, and his second son, Charles, came to Lee county, Illinois, as above stated, and reared a prosperous family, which is now (1881) living in the vicinity of Franklin Grove, where they first settled.

SYLVANUS C. HANSEN, farmer and stock raiser, Franklin Grove, was born in the State of Maine October 17, 1825, and in 1840 came with his parents to Lee county, Illinois. His school advantages were very meager, only such as were afforded in the old subscription schools of pioneer history. At the age of about sixteen he became the victim of a protracted fever, which finally resulted in a fever-sore settling in one limb. For a time his life was despaired of, at the age of nineteen not weighing 100 pounds. Soon after, however, he changed for the

better, and at the age of twenty-one was entirely restored. December 20, 1859, he was united in marriage to Miss Sabina Fellows, of Belvidere, Boone county, Illinois. They have become the parents of five children: Ida C., Charles F., Lillian, Grace, and May. Mr. Hansen made his start by working on his father's farm as a renter. Following up his first start, and by hard work and good management, he has been successful in so much that he now owns 680 acres of good, valuable land, and is living on part of the old homestead one mile west of Franklin Grove.

WILLIAM FORBES, deceased, was born in North Carolina, June 20, 1817, and was reared a farmer, with but limited educational advantages. In 1856 he came to Illinois and settled in Ogle county, and there engaged in farming. December 20, 1857, he married Miss Susan Burges, a native of North Carolina, who was born January 22, 1827. They became the parents of six children, four of whom are living: Mary E., wife of John H. Parker, now in Kansas; Julius, Margaret, and Caleb, now at home. A son died in Washington county, Kansas, March 23, 1881, aged nearly twenty-one years. His death was a sore affliction to his mother. In 1870 Mr. Forbes removed to Lee county, Illinois, and bought a farm in the north part of China township, and there engaged in farming till the time of his death, which occurred January 22, 1873. Mrs. Forbes with her children still live on their home in this township.

HENRY W. HILLISON, farmer and stock raiser, Franklin Grove, was born in Bradford township, Lee county, Illinois, September 12, 1850, and was reared on the farm. He received a liberal education. During his early youth he attended the common schools at home, but finished his education with about two years in college, or high schools. May 8, 1873, he was united in marriage to Miss Elizabeth, daughter of John and Barbara (Burnhart) Roth. They are the parents of three children: John H., Christian A. and William C. At the time of his marriage Mr. Hillison moved on his farm of 200 acres in Secs. 26 and 36, T. 21, R. 10. This farm is but one of the many prosperous ones of this township, and proves its owner to be a young man of good taste and enterprise. In 1881 he erected one of the finest residences in the township. His father, Oman Hillison, a native of Norway, came to Lee county in an early day, and settled near Lee Center. His first residence was a sod house in what is now Bradford township. He died in June 1854. His mother, Elizabeth (Rienhart) Hillison, is by nativity a Hessian-German, and came to America when only fourteen years of age, and also became one of Lee county's early pioneers. She is still living in Bradford township.

GEORGE W., son of Martin and Mary (Fisher) Eastwood, was born

in China township, Lee county, Illinois, April 1, 1846. He, like his father, was reared a farmer. In 1864 he enlisted in the 34th Ill. Vet. Vol. Inf., and was honorably discharged at the close of the war. December 10, 1867, he was united in marriage with Miss Julia R., daughter of E. C. Thomas, Esq., of Franklin Grove. She was born in this township August 20, 1846. They have two children, Alice M. and Byron E. Mr. Eastwood began life by working out by the month, but not with the intention of making it his business through life, but only to get a start, for soon after we find him on a rented farm for a short time, and he soon after bought a farm of his own in Sec. 26, T. 21, R. 10, which he has finely improved, besides adding to his first purchase till he now owns over 200 acres, which, if no unforeseen misfortune overtakes him, he will soon have clear of debt. His parents came to Lee county in 1840, and are still living.

LEONARD W. HALE is one of the few early settlers yet living in Lee county. He was born in the State of New York May 25, 1806. When he was about eighteen months old his father (Jessee Hale) died and he was taken by his grandfather, who in 1812 removed to Ohio, where young Leonard was reared in the backwoods among the Indians, and well trained in all that pertains to pioneer life and hardships. At the age of twenty he began for himself by working out by the month, which he followed successfully about eight years. He then rented a dairy farm and after following that business about ten or twelve years had secured means enough to enable him to undertake to make the trip to, and start in, a new country, so accordingly he set out for Illinois in 1847, bringing with him his family, a team of horses, and wagon. He first settled in the north part of Dixon township, where he worked on rented land three years, and then removed to his present home farm of 160 acres in Sec. 26, T. 21, R. 10, in China township. Here he permanently settled and has since lived, following the business of farming and stock raising. December 29, 1836, he was united in marriage with Miss Sarah A. Crawford, a sister of the Hon. Joseph Crawford, of Dixon. They are the parents of six children, three of whom are living: Mariett, now Mrs. John C. Leake; Alvira, wife of Adam My-nard, and Abi, wife of Bascom Decker. When Mr. Hale began in Lee county, he hauled wheat that he had raised on shares to Chicago, and sold it for thirty-seven and a half cents per bushel.

THOMAS GILBERT, Franklin, was born in England, May 1, 1760, and after growing up was engaged as a shepherd, following that business principally through life. September 29, 1783, he was married to Sarah, his wife, who was born December 31, 1761. Of their children, one they called Junia, was born in Northamptonshire, England, June 13, 1800, and like his father, was reared a shepherd. May 1, 1820, he was

united in marriage with Miss Elizabeth Cobley, who was also a native of England. She was born August 16, 1797. After his marriage Mr. Gilbert engaged in teaming and timber hauling, and was also engaged as a grazier. In 1859 he set sail for America in the steamship *City of Baltimore*. For one year he stopped at Courtland in this state, and then came to Lee county, where he went to work on rented land near Franklin. He soon after bought land and farmed with his son George, for a number of years. He then sold out to George and came into the village of Franklin, where he now lives, at the advanced age of near eighty-two years. His wife died in 1869.

ABRAHAM GILBERT, son of the above parents, was born in Northamptonshire, England, November 9, 1828. His educational advantages consisted of about one month to a day school, and the balance of a fair education was obtained by attending night and Sunday-school, the latter being taught many years by his father. At the age of twenty-one he enlisted in the British army, serving nearly four years, being in Russia in the early part of the Crimean war. In the summer of 1856 he was married to Miss Lucy Smith, also a native of Northamptonshire, England, and in 1858, with his wife and family, bade farewell to his native land and sailed for America in the steamship *Kangaroo*. He first stopped in Kane county, Illinois, but soon after came to Lee county, rented land and engaged in farming, working as a renter six years. He then bought his present home farm in Sec. 23, T. 22, R. 10, in China township. To this he has kept adding till he now owns 320 acres of good land, all earned by his own hard work and the help of an industrious wife. They are the parents of eight children: Caroline E., Laura E., Junia T., Evasta A., Joseph J., Unice L., Lucy M. and Rebecca.

THOMAS GILBERT, son of James and Elizabeth Gilbert, was born in Northamptonshire, England, January 25, 1833. He was reared at a mixed business of teaming, farming, etc., and received a limited education in the common schools of his native place. In 1852 he sailed for America in the sailing ship *Albert Gallatin*, an American vessel. His first two years in America were spent in the wood business in the State of New York, after which he went to Chicago, and engaged in the railroad business, in the capacity of brakeman, fireman and engineer, which he followed fifteen years. Part of this time was spent in the south during the war as engineer. In 1870 he bought land in Bradford township and engaged in farming. Recently he bought a piece of land in China township, south of Franklin, where he now lives. December 5, 1861, he married Miss Ellen Gorman, a native of London, England, who was born July 12, 1847. They are the parents of ten children, and are members of the Lutheran church. The children are



George W., Abram G., John J., Charles A., Rosa E., Jessee P., Carrie M., Thomas J., Nathan N. and Florence G.

GEORGE GILBERT, son of Junia and Elizabeth Gilbert, was born in Northamptonshire, England, November 13, 1839, and was reared in the village of Warkton, engaged in attending school and teaming till 1856. He then left his parents and native land, sailing for America in the vessel City of Washington. After landing in New York he at once went to Chicago, and soon after came to Lee county and engaged in working out by the month. In 1859, his father coming here, they farmed together, first on rented land, but later bought a farm in Sec. 26, T. 22, R. 10, where they continued to farm together for a number of years. After this George bought his father out, and now owns and occupies the old home. He now owns over 500 acres of farming and pasture land, and is extensively engaged in stock raising, dealing in horses. He has introduced on his farm some of the best blood of Kentucky. He is also giving some attention to sheep and swine raising.

JAMES W. PANKHURST, farmer and stock raiser, Franklin Grove, was born in London, England, April 14, 1841. At the age of eleven years he quit school and went to work in a wagon shop, where he remained till the age of sixteen years. He then, seeing no prospect for the future by remaining in the land of his birth, set sail in the ship City of Washington for the United States, landing in New York in June 1857. He at once came on to Lee county, and soon after hired out to work for John Leake by the month, where he remained till the outbreak of the war of the rebellion. August 13, 1862, he enlisted in the service of his adopted country in Co. E, 75th Ill. Vol. Inf. He was honorably discharged June 30, 1865. After his return home he again engaged in working out by the month till 1868, when he bought eighty acres of land in Sec. 27, T. 21, R. 10, and began farming for himself. For the four years following he lived the unenviable life of a bachelor, being his own cook and housekeeper. March 27, 1873, he married Miss Louisa, daughter of William and Ann (Wenham) Lawrence, who was born in Sussex, England, September 15, 1849, and came to America in the fall of 1872. Mr. Pankhurst has by hard work and economy made for himself a good home of 200 acres of land, which he is now improving in good shape. The success which has crowned the efforts of Mr. Pankhurst is but an evidence of what pluck and a determined will will accomplish.

WILLIAM G. BELL, farmer and stock raiser, Franklin Grove, is a son of James and Jane (Brown) Bell, and was born near Perth, Canada, in the Province of Ontario, April 30, 1830. He was reared on a farm, and followed farming, lumbering and rafting on all the great rivers of that romantic region of northern Canada. In 1855 he went

west as far as the borders of Lake Huron, where he remained till 1861, when he came on to Lee county and hired out on a farm, working faithfully for what is so much coveted by a young man having a spirit of enterprise, independence. February 14, 1867, he married Miss Freedom Johnson, a native of Ohio, who was born September 13, 1840, and came to Lee county in 1866. They have one child, Maud, born July 5, 1880. After his marriage Mr. Bell rented land and engaged in farming, at the same time turning his attention to raising hogs, which he made a success. In 1871 he bought eighty acres of the farm where he now lives, in Sec. 23, T. 22, R. 10, to which he has since kept adding, till he now owns 200 acres of good land in this township. Success will crown the efforts of faithful industry.

LUTHER F. RAMSDELL, farmer and stock raiser, Franklin Grove, is a son of Farrington and Sarah (Fish) Ramsdell, and was born in Washington, Orange county, Vermont, September 20, 1833. He was reared a farmer, and educated in the common schools of his native state. December 24, 1857, he was united in marriage with Miss Harriet M., daughter of Ransom and Rebecca (Darling) Eastman, who was born in Orange county, Vermont, January 29, 1836. After his marriage Mr. Ramsdell became a partner with his father in the ownership and management of the old homestead, and followed farming till 1868, when they sold out, in view of coming to Illinois to secure a home on its beautiful prairies. In August of that year Mr. Ramsdell found himself in Lee county looking about where he might suit himself in a piece of land on which to make a future home. After a short time he decided on a 160 acres in Sec. 23, T. 21, R. 10. Here he permanently located and engaged in farming and stock raising, making the business a success. That he is a man of economy, thrift and enterprise is evidenced by the neat appearance of his farm and its surroundings. Even the wind which passes over his farm is utilized in grinding grain by day and night. He has one son, Ferrie R., born in Washington, Vermont, October 31, 1858. Mr. Ramsdell's father died here December 18, 1874, and is buried in the Pines Cemetery, on the farm, and his mother died April 14, 1867, in Vermont, and is buried in her native state. Mr. Ramsdell is a descendant of one of three brothers of that name who came from England to America about the middle of the seventeenth century.

ERSKINE A. BLISS, son of Austin and Unice (Pease) Bliss, was born near Springfield, Massachusetts, November 13, 1824. His early youth was spent on a farm, receiving a common school education. Also during the years of his minority he learned the trade of carpenter. January 1, 1851, he married Miss Jane C. Ferre, a native of Springfield, Massachusetts. After his marriage Mr. Bliss worked at his trade

in a sash and door shop till 1853, when he came west, stopping in Chicago five years, where he worked in the car shops of the Rock Island & Chicago and Burlington & Quincy railroads. He then, in 1858, came to Lee county and bought land in the south end of China township, and there engaged in farming and stock raising. This he followed till 1871, when he quit the farm and went to Minneapolis, where he engaged in railroading and the lumber business till 1881, when he returned to his farm. He has one son, Frank E., now at home on the farm.

Prominent among the early settlers of China township now living is Mr. JACOB RIDDELSBARGER, who was born of true German ancestors in Franklin county, Pennsylvania, March 30, 1816. He was reared a farmer. He had very limited means of procuring an education, though by close observation and extensive reading he has gained a fair business education and on all subjects. Pertaining to practical business he is one of our best posted men. In the fall of 1837 he was united in marriage with Miss Hannah Foreman, a daughter of Mr. Abraham Foreman, a second cousin, who is also of German ancestry. After his marriage Mr. Riddelsbarger engaged in a mixed business of farming, butchering and saw-milling till 1845, when he came to Lee county, justly believing that on the broad, beautiful prairies of Illinois he would find ample room to bring into practice that early training which has characterized his principles through life. After his arrival here he at once bought a farm and engaged in farming and stock raising, living on his first farm thirty years, and then fulfilled a long-cherished desire to see settled on the old home one of his children. He sold out to his son-in-law, Mr. J. L. Miller, and built himself a residence on a little farm of eleven acres near Franklin Grove, and is now enjoying the blessings which result from a life of industry and conscientious living. His children are Catharine, wife of J. L. Miller; Susan M., wife of Peter Breehmer, and Daniel E., now an engineer in Chicago. One daughter, Mary E., died in March 1880. Mr. Riddlesbarger and family are members of the German Baptist church, an organization for which he has given liberally.

JACOB L. MILLER, farmer and stock raiser, Franklin Grove, is among the few young men who came to Lee county poor and without means many years ago, and have since by industry, hard work and close attention to business, become wealthy, prosperous, and comfortably established in life. He is a son of Samuel and Mary (Lahman) Miller, and was born in Franklin county, Pennsylvania, June 23, 1835. He was reared on a farm and received a common school education. In 1854, in company with Samuel Lahman and family, he came to Lee county and hired out to work on a farm for \$12.50 per month. This and car-



penter-work he followed till 1858, when he rented land of H. Hansen and engaged in farming for himself. December 18, 1860, he married Miss Catharine, daughter of Jacob and Hannah (Foreman) Riddlesbarger, who was born in Franklin county, Pennsylvania, April 27, 1841. In about 1861 Mr. Miller bought his first land, and after buying and selling two farms he bought out his father-in-law and permanently located on Secs. 35 and 29, T. 22, R. 10, near Franklin Grove, and actively engaged in farming and stock raising. Of their four children two are living, Elmer E. and Orvil P. The parents are members of the German Baptist church.

JOHN D. LAHMAN, farmer and stock grower, Franklin Grove, was born in Maryland, June 22, 1834, and is the son of Christian and Elizabeth (Emmert) Lahman. In 1845 his parents emigrated to Lee county, and with their family made a start in the new country. Here young John grew up to manhood, early educated in all that pertains to the principles of industry, economy, and hard work. His first start for himself was made by working for his father by the month at his flour mill on Franklin creek. This he followed three years. He then in company with his brother, J. C. Lahman, bought the mill of their father and successfully carried on the business a number of years. November 11, 1860, he was united in marriage with Miss Mary C., daughter of John C. and Elizabeth (Diehl) Haughtelin, a native of Adams county, Pennsylvania, who was born September 20, 1840, and came to Lee county in 1857. They are the parents of two children living, Clarence W. and Vinna A. In the spring of 1861 Mr. Lahman moved on his present home farm, where he is permanently located and engaged in farming and stock raising, making graded short-horn cattle a specialty. His farm of 160 acres is in Sec. 26, T. 22, R. 10, and indicates its owner to be a man of industry and good taste.

CHARLES BRACKETT, deceased, was born in Orange county, Vermont, May 9, 1799, where he lived till 1854, following the business of buying cattle and sheep for the Boston markets. He was first married to Armina Bowman, a native of Vermont, by whom he reared one child, who is now Mrs. Marion Bates, of Amboy. His second marriage was to Miss Julia A. Spear, also a native of Vermont, born March 7, 1816. In 1854 Mr. Brackett came to Illinois, and after looking around for some time decided to buy land near Aurora, and accordingly bought 160 acres near town, the same land on which the seminary now stands. This he sold the next spring, and on receipt of a letter informing him that the Temperance Hill farm could be bought, he came at once and made the purchase. This farm is located in the southwest part of China township, and is said to be the highest elevation in Lee county. Here Mr. Brackett actively engaged in farming



and stock raising, making Spanish Merino sheep a specialty, following the business closely till within the last few years. He died August 14, 1881, and is buried in the Temperance Hill Cemetery. Besides his wife he left three children who were born to him by his last wife, Julia M., now Mrs. Dr. Charles Gardner, who removed to Dakota in 1881: Mary E., wife of Job Bates, and Charles S., who was born on the farm at Temperance Hill, July 29, 1860, and is now owner of the farm and engaged in farming and stock raising. He is an enterprising young man for whom we expect a successful future. He began for himself when about thirteen years of age by renting his father's farm. He now has what promises to be one of the leading farms in this part of the county.

EZRA WITHEY, one of the early settlers of China township, was born in Somerset county, Maine, October 22, 1813. His parents, Isaac and Polly (Russell) Withey, went far back into the wilderness on the Kennebec river when Ezra was about twelve years old, and there followed hunting, trapping and lumbering. Here the boy was reared to the wild life of a hunter, chasing the moose and bear, always depending on his trusty rifle, and trapping the beaver, otter, sable, and other animals of the fur tribe. To him schools were institutions known by tradition, and only in later years has he seen their benign influence shed over our land. January 1, 1838, he married Miss Abigail Bradberry, who was born in Somerset county, Maine, September 15, 1811. After his marriage Mr. Withey engaged in enterprises of various kinds till he secured the means to carry him to the western prairies, green fields delightfully beautiful, and in 1847 left the wilderness of the Kennebec, and came by team, a distance of one hundred and fifty miles, to Boston, and from there, by way of Albany, Buffalo, and the lakes, to Chicago, where he hired teams to bring himself, family and baggage to Grand Detour. Soon after his arrival Mr. Withey bought eighty acres of land on credit in Sec. 22, T. 22, R. 10. This he paid for, and has kept adding till he now owns a farm of four hundred and forty acres well improved. Mr. Withey's first team here was a yoke of oxen, which, however, he soon after exchanged for horses. In 1850 he, in company with his brother-in-law, bought a Pitts threshing machine (the first of the kind in all this part of the country) and engaged in threshing, taking for toll every tenth bushel. This was hauled to Chicago and sold for 25 cents a bushel, but later, after the railroad opened up an outlet for the produce, they got cash for threshing and times became better. Mr. Withey, with his estimable lady, are now enjoying the fruits of a life of industry. They have three children: George C., on part of the farm; Abigail, wife of J. L. Strock, of Franklin, and John, born July 12, 1850, and married Mary E. Negles, January 16, 1876. The last named

was born August 6, 1856, in Grand Detour. They have two children, Leo J. and Clida L.

JOHN SEEBACH, farmer and stock raiser, Franklin, was born in Germany, December 30, 1836, and is the son of John S. and Anna C. Seebach. He was reared on a farm and educated in the common schools of his native country. Early in life he learned the trade of millwright, which he followed till 1855, when, in company with his brother, he set sail in the sailing vessel Republic for America. They landed in New York, but at once came on to Lee county, where he engaged in working out on a farm by the month. This he followed two years. April 22, 1858, he married Miss Catharine, daughter of Casper Weishar, who was born in Germany, April 25, 1839. They are the parents of eight children: Conrat, Fredrica C., Catharine E., John S., Christian, Charlie, Anna B. and Martha. After his marriage Mr. Seebach farmed on rented land for awhile with his brother, and then bought a farm in Bradford township, which he sold and in 1870 bought the farm he had long wished to own in Sec. 25, T. 21, R. 10. Since then he has bought another piece adjoining and now owns a fine farm of 184 acres, which with the help of a faithful wife and industrious family he has earned by hard work and careful management.

SINGLETON W. RIEGLE, farmer and stock grower, Franklin, though not one of the early settlers of the county, is one who came to the prairie without money or means, and by industry and good management has made for himself a home and a name for which any man should have just reason to be proud. He was born in Fredrick county, Maryland, November 11, 1831, and in 1837 with his parents, Peter and Elizabeth (Wilt) Riegle, removed to Adams county, Pennsylvania. During his early youth his time was spent attending school. At the age of eighteen he began teaching, which he followed in connection with attending school till twenty-four years old. In 1859 he came to Lee county, prospecting with a view of finding a place suited to his taste for farming. In the fall of the same year he returned to Pennsylvania, and on December 28, 1859, was united in marriage with Miss Caroline M., daughter of David and Margaret (Moritz) Herman, who was born in Adams county, Pennsylvania, November 6, 1838. In the spring of 1860 Mr. Riegle came to Lee county, rented a farm and engaged in farming. He continued renting till 1868, when, after an extended tour of prospecting, he finally bought land and permanently settled on Sec. 10, T. 21, R. 10. In 1876 he built his fine brick residence, which adds much to improve the appearance of this part of China township. Mr. Riegle is farming strictly on the principle of feeding his produce and yearly driving it to market in live stock, thus constantly keeping his farm up to a high standard of cultivation. His

home is blessed with six children: Stella M., Willis L., Charlie P., Paul S., Vergie C. and Hermione E. Mr. Riegle is a member of the Masonic and Odd-Fellows fraternities, and himself and wife are members of the Lutheran church.

JOSIAH HUGHES, proprietor Hughes' Hotel, Franklin Grove, was born in Otsego county, New York, February 17, 1808. His parents were William and Sallie (Dilly) Hughes, born of English ancestry. The subject of our sketch spent his early youth in a cotton factory, where he worked prior to the invention of the first power loom in the United States. January 1, 1831, he married Miss Lydia, daughter of Ephraim and Lydia (Wheaton) Barry, who was born in Madison county, New York, February 16, 1809. In the summer of 1844 he gathered up his little means and, with his family and a team, started west, arriving in Chicago September 30. He at once pushed on to St. Charles, Illinois, where he bought a farm and engaged in farming. This he followed, together with teaming, selling stoves and other goods all over northern Illinois, till 1854, when he sold out his farm and removed to Lee county, Illinois, where he bought a small farm adjoining what is now the village of Franklin. Here he at once engaged in the stove and tinware business, the first of the kind ever started in Franklin. The year following he built a large stone house and engaged in hotel keeping. This business he has never abandoned, and is now the oldest landlord perhaps in Lee county, if not on the Northwestern railroad between Chicago and Omaha. Of his five children one only is living, Oscar, born September 22, 1832. He is married to Mary A. Dick. They have one child, Minnie. Mr. Hughes is the right man in the right place, as his house is always an enjoyable home for all who choose to come.

ROBERT HULLAH, farmer and stock raiser, Franklin Grove. As an illustration of what can be accomplished by an indomitable will and a determined, persevering push-ahead character, we here give a few brief points in the life of this worthy citizen of Lee county, who was born of poor but honest parents in Yorkshire, England, February 14, 1813. His parents were William and Elizabeth (Sugdon) Hullah, also of English birth. Until the age of twelve years he was principally engaged in attending school, after which he was put to farm labor for the space of three years. At this time it was determined that he should learn the business of cloth making, and accordingly he was put to the trade, which he completed in five and a half years. He then, at the age of twenty-one, began for himself at his trade as a hired hand, and the fall following his release as an apprentice married Miss Ann, daughter of William and Sarah Pollard, also of England. By close application to his business in a few years he became a jobber, but after a time, the



trade becoming so poor, abandoned it and took what little money he had saved and embarked in a small mercantile business. He had followed this new enterprise but a short time when he found himself insolvent and in debt. This failure was brought on by trusting his goods to men whom he thought honest, but who never paid. Not discouraged at finding himself again at the foot of the hill, he went to work and was soon (with the help of a friend) able to buy a horse and cart. With this he went to work at odd jobs, and was after awhile able to buy another horse, and so kept on until he owned a number, and then went into the railroad business as a contractor. This he followed for a number years with great success, turning his attention (after paying his debts) to buying real estate and building houses, till he became the independent owner of twenty houses, and with a fair prospect of soon being able to retire to private life. But unfortunately for himself he again entered into the cloth manufacturing business for the purpose of teaching the trade to his sons. This time he took into the business with him two men, friends, who in a few years swindled him out of all his hard-earned money. Again he gathered together a little means and started in the old trade of cloth making for the third time. After following the business closely for a few years he was again successful, but was induced to sell his goods in India through a commission merchant, by whom he lost his all, and for the third time became bankrupt. He then, in 1866, gathered together a few shillings and, with his family, took passage on the steamship *Etna* for the United States. After seventeen days' sailing they landed in New York, and pushed on to Lee county, Illinois, where he at once rented a farm for three years. Thus he started in what was to him a new business in a strange country. Before his time expired as a renter he purchased a farm in Sec. 27, T. 21, R. 10, containing 160 acres, for the sum of \$4,000, paying down \$25, the balance to be paid as convenient, with 10 per cent interest. Some years later he bought 160 acres adjoining it of L. G. Fish, and now, with his son, Elijah, owns one of the finest farms in China township. His first wife died in 1853, aged forty-two years. His second marriage was with Miss Mary Appelby, a native of Leeds, England. He has five children: Elizabeth, David and Elijah by his first wife, and Ruth and Josiah by his present wife.

ADAM GRIM, M.D., physician and surgeon, Franklin Grove, was born in Green county, Pennsylvania, October 23, 1850. His early youth was spent working on a farm and attending school, the latter occupying three or four months in the winter, till 1868. He then commenced teaching, which he followed in connection with working on the farm, handling coke, coal, mining, and attending school at every opportunity, till he graduated from Duff's College, at Pittsburgh,



Pennsylvania, in 1872. He came to Newman, Douglas county, Illinois, March 1, 1876, and there commenced the study of medicine under the instruction of J. M. Wagner, M.D. He soon, however, found himself without means, and again resorted to teaching and working on a farm, keeping up his studies at night. He finally entered Rush Medical College, at Chicago, from which he graduated February 22, 1881, and the next day came to Lee county and engaged in the practice of his profession, which has been marked with signal success.

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#### ERRATA.

Page 623, line 18, for first letter "W" read "N."

Page 648, line 9, for "he" read "Alcott."

Page 700, line 23, leave out "s" from first name.

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#### FAMILY RECORDS.





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